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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4:

Archbishop Helder Pessoa Camara, Catholic Archbishop of Recife and Olinda in Brazil and internationally recognized advocate of non-violent social change, is the 1975 recipient of the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council's annual Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award, according to an announcement today by Father John S. Smith, CIC President.

Dom Helder, whom Time Magazine has called "pastor of the poor," has confirmed plans to be in Davenport, October 18, to accept in person the CIC award.

In receiving the Pacem in Terris Award, the Brazilian prelate becomes the first non-citizen of the United States and the eleventh person to be so honored by the local group.

The award was originated by CIC in 1964 to memorialize the late Pope John XXIII for his historic plea for peace and justice in his encyclical letter, Pacem in Terris, and at the same time, to honor individuals who have made major contributions to the causes of peace and freedom.

Past recipients of the award include John Howard Griffin, author of Black Like Me, Martin Luther King, Jr., Sargent Shriver, A. Philip Randolph, Father James Groppi, Saul Alinsky, Jesse Jackson, Dorothy Day and former Senator Harold Hughes.

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"We of CIC are very happy to be able to so honor Dom Helder Camara," Father Smith stated in making the announcement. "Few people today so represent in all aspects of their lives such thorough and continuing concern for the burning, people issues of our time; poverty, racism and socio-political exploitation, especially."

As Archbishop of Recife and Olinda in Brazil, Dom Helder has launched major programs of land reform and non-violent socio-political liberation in his own diocese which have significantly influenced movements for change throughout Brazil and Latin America.

Sometimes referred to as the "Red Bishop" because of his relentless advocacy of social and economic reconstruction, Dom Helder is the American Friends Service Committee's nominee for the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize. In 1973, he received a "People's Peace Prize" in Norway; $300,000 raised by European church and student groups, trade unions, and political parties.

As the famed voice of the poor and preacher of non-violent revolution, Dom Helder is described as "a persistent nettle in the breeches of his country's military regime." At least eight of his associates have been arrested and tortured.

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