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Guru presented his most esteemed and dear Brother-Friend the Very Reverend James Parks Morton, one of the great interfaith leaders of our time, with the U Thant Peace Award and lifted him overhead on July 31, 2001. Dean Morton, Founder and President of the Interfaith Center of New York and Dean Emeritus of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, declared:

*"The quality of peace that exudes from Sri Chinmoy is extraordinary. Peace is having a divine spirit which is what allows you to work and work and work and, at the same time, lifts you, so that work seems effortless. That peaceful effortlessness is the essence of spiritual peace. The real peace of this wonderful man, Sri Chinmoy, has both sides — very hard work and this effortlessness. I am overwhelmed by this."*



*Guru with Dr. Diana Eck, Director of The Pluralism Project, at Harvard University. September 10, 2000.*

In recognition of his inspiring achievements in many fields, Guru received an award from Dr. Diana Eck on September 10, 2000. A stellar authority not only on interfaith understanding but also on the religion and spirituality of India, she is Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies at Harvard University, and Founder and Director of The Pluralism Project. The Pluralism Project has recorded the new religious diversity of America and held high the need for us to embrace each other with all our differences. Diana Eck, a beloved friend who has claimed the cause of interfaith understanding as her very own, is a spiritual seeker to whom Guru declared on that memorable evening,

*"In you I see God-hunger in measureless measure."*

It was on American soil that Guru offered the U Thant Peace Award to Nobel Peace Laureate His Holiness the Dalai Lama on May 28, 1997. Guru lifted another pre-eminent Buddhist, the Most Venerable Maha Ghosananda, Supreme Patriarch of the Cambodian Buddhist Sangha and world-renowned peace activist and teacher of nonviolence, on September 6th, 1990 at the Performing Arts Center in Providence, Rhode Island.

When Maha Ghosananda first saw Guru at the 1993 Parliament of Religions, he rushed toward Guru with the childlike spontaneity found in saints and holy people, flung his arms around him, and lifted Guru in both arms!



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The very word "interfaith" is extremely significant and precious, as it embodies both oneness and faith. Guru's path of oneness accepts, honors and identifies itself with individuals of all religions and with the religions themselves. As Guru so powerfully affirms in his book *My Religion*, written on the eve of the New Millennium: