

## **Office of the Chief Academic Officer**

### **Presidential Convocation**

#### **Introductory Remarks Delivered by CAO Ernest Rose**

posted online at <http://www.lmu.edu/cao>

Good afternoon, I'm Ernie Rose, Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs and I am pleased to welcome all of you to the 2006 President's Convocation.

Some quick announcements, first if you have a cell phone, please turn it off or put it on the vibrating mode; second, like last year the President's Convocation Address will be made into a podcast and it will be available by next week on ManeGate and our LMU website; and third, Fr. Lawton's address today, "The Idea of a University in the Ignatian Tradition," is meant to start a dialogue on campus and as a follow up to his convocation address this afternoon there will be a town hall style meeting on October 10 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm in Ahmanson 1000 in University Hall. At the conclusion of Fr. Lawton's address, I'll provide you with more information.

At this time, I am pleased to acknowledge the presence of members of our Board of Trustees, our Board of Regents, members of some of our other important boards and councils, along with alumni, donors, and friends, and our faculty, staff, and student leaders. Thank you for being here today.

The year 2006 is a Jubilee Year for the Jesuits. This year marks the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of St. Francis Xavier and Blessed Peter Faber. In June of this year, a commemorative conference was held in Paris for the member schools of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. The theme of the conference was "The Vocation of the Teacher in the Ignatian Tradition." There were many excellent presentations and a visit to Montmartre where the first Jesuits took their initial vows. At the conclusion of the conference, those of us from LMU met together under the guidance of Fr. Bob Caro and at our meeting Fr. Lawton felt that it would be appropriate to declare this academic year at LMU as the "Year of the Teacher in the Ignatian Tradition." A few weeks ago,

at one of the inaugural events in the newly remodeled Collins Center, three of our faculty who attended the Paris Conference, Cheryl Grills, Wilke Au, and Paul Harris presented on their impressions of the conference and their ideas on teaching and the Ignatian tradition.

As you know, the Jesuits are famous for organizing things in threes. This is not surprising considering that the founder of the Society of Jesus, St. Ignatius, had two very close companions who complemented his vision for a new company, a new order dedicated to actively following Christ's teachings by being in the streets rather than sequestered in a monastery. Thus, this Jubilee Year honors St. Ignatius and St. Xavier and Blessed Fr. Faber. The Power of Three.

Here at Loyola Marymount University, we are blessed in that we have three compelling traditions that influence the mission of our campus: The Society of Jesus, The Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary – the Marymount Sisters, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. The combination of these three traditions make Loyola Marymount University unique among all Catholic Universities. The Power of Three.

The vocation of the faculty in virtually every college and university in America is expressed in three core elements: teaching, research or artistry, and service. Our faculty is exceptional in this vocational tradition. At this time, I ask that all our faculty present please stand, please stand and I ask all here assembled to join me acknowledging the Professoriate of Loyola Marymount University. Teaching, research and artistry, and service. The Power of Three.

This afternoon marks the occasion of Fr. Lawton's 8<sup>th</sup> Presidential Convocation. Try as I might, I could not get the number 8 and the number 3 into any meaningful relationship. I suspect that our faculty in the Department of Mathematics might have shown me a way, but I floundered on my own.

However, I do know that Fr. Lawton is well known for having three points of emphasis in his addresses and homilies. And, Father I want to thank you for that because at my age, trying to remember more than three things at a time is taxing.

Those of us who have had the pleasure of hearing Fr. Lawton's speeches during his Presidency know we can be guaranteed three things: it will be informational, it will be inspirational, and it

will be eloquent. The Power of Three. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming our President of Loyola Marymount University, THE ONE AND ONLY Rev. Robert B. Lawton, Society of Jesus.

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Thank you Fr. Lawton for another informational, inspirational, and eloquent address. I remind all of you that there will be a Town Hall follow up to Father's address and that will be on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in Ahmanson 1000. The purpose of this meeting is to go deeper into the points that Father made today as they reflect on LMU as a university in the Ignatian tradition. So, I hope you will attend.

I am now pleased to invite you to a luncheon reception outside the chapel in the sculpture garden. Please wait for our Trustees, Regents, and other guests to exit first and then please join them in the sculpture garden for lunch. Thank you for your attendance today, the 2006 President's Convocation is adjourned.