

**Office of the Chief Academic Officer**

**Presidential Convocation 2005**

**Introductory Remarks Delivered by CAO Ernest Rose**

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

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the 2005 Presidential Convocation. It is a glorious day and we are privileged to be in this glorious space, our Sacred Heart Chapel. Before I begin my introduction of the President I have 2 announcements. First, if you have a cell phone on you, please either turn it off or put it on the vibrating mode. Second, is something entirely new this year. This Convocation will be available as a podcast so you can download it and listen to it as often as you want and tell your friends and colleagues who are not here they can download it and hear it for themselves. This is made possible by our good colleagues in ITS and, of course, it has caused much anxiety for Fr. Lawton. We told him to get over it.

At this time I am pleased to introduce a special guest. Joining us today is Mr. R. Chad Dreier, chair of the Loyola Marymount University Board of Trustees. Earlier today we celebrated the dedication of the Dreier Endowed Chair of Accounting in the College of Business Administration and we thank Chad and his family for their very strong support of the University. Chad, please stand so we may acknowledge you and your many contributions to LMU.

I now have the privilege to introduce our President. Fr. Robert B. Lawton of the Society of Jesus was born in the state of Maryland. I did some further investigation of this matter and found that his birth was not considered miraculous. Thus, at that point in time, he was not much different from you and me. But, human beings can influence their destinies and so, in 1965 he entered the Society of Jesus. He is a Phi Beta Kappa and graduate of Fordham University summa cum laude in classics. In 1971, he entered Harvard University as a Danforth & Woodrow Wilson Fellow and graduated in 1977 with a doctorate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. You know, from a Southern California perspective, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations would be New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, places like that.

The story continues, from 1977 to 1979, he taught theology at Georgetown University and, in 1979, he began preparing for ordination for the priesthood, which took place in 1981.

From 1981 to 1982, he did formal study in Germany and from 1982 to 1984, he taught Hebrew and Aramaic languages at the Pontifical Biblical institute in Rome.

At this point, the story could have settled. Fr. Lawton could have continued to become a respected scholar in his field, but largely unknown to the rest of the world. That's not unusual in the Academy. However, as I said earlier, human beings can influence their own destiny and most fortunately for us, Fr. Lawton heeded the call to leadership. In 1984, he was appointed Assistant Dean of Georgetown College of Georgetown University and in 1989, he was appointed Dean of that College where he served for 10 years.

In 1999, he was appointed the 14<sup>th</sup> President of Loyola Marymount University and holds a joint appointment as Professor of Theological Studies and Professor of Classics.

This is Fr. Lawton's 7<sup>th</sup> convocation address. I am told that, like Gaul, his previous addresses were divided into three parts. I have no idea whether or not he will continue that tradition, but it's not unusual for a priest to think in terms of a trinity. His previous addresses have covered such topics as "Comings and Goings"; "A Tale of Two Cathedrals"; "Strategic Planning"; "Mission and Identity"; "God and Evolution"; and "What Shall We Do and How Shall We Live."

Today, I know that most of his address will cover a very special project: "Right Place, Right Time, The Campaign for LMU." This campaign will literally transform the University. It will provide substantial scholarships for students, it will give us the power to recruit distinguished faculty in each of our colleges and schools. It will give us the power to provide stronger support for the teaching, research and creative works, and service endeavors of our faculty, and it will give us the power to build a new state of the art library, an innovative new building for our Seaver College of Science and Engineering, and a much needed building for our Athletic administration and a training center for our student athletes. This campaign will enable us to move from the "pedal to the medal" speed that has been taking place to a "warp speed"

momentum for the changes we must make to become one of the pre-eminent Catholic Universities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Given all that, we are truly blessed to have the Right Person at the Right Place and Right Time to lead this Campaign for LMU. Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Our President of Loyola Marymount University, the Rev. Robert B. Lawton of the Society of Jesus.

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Thank you, Fr. Lawton for your inspiring remarks; we look forward to joining you in this campaign and to celebrating our success at its conclusion.

My thanks to all of you who have attended the President's Convocation and I am pleased to invite you to partake in a luncheon reception in the Sculpture Garden. Please exit the Chapel by the center aisle- following after the members of our leadership boards beginning with the front row first. This concludes the 2005 Presidential Convocation, I look forward to seeing you at the reception and good afternoon.