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Historian to Speak About History of Catholic Schools and Forecast for Future During Speech at UD

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HISTORIAN TO SPEAK ABOUT HISTORY OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND FORECAST FOR FUTURE DURING SPEECH AT UD

DAYTON, Ohio — Timothy Walch, associate editor of the *U.S. Catholic Historian*, will be on the University of Dayton campus to speak about Catholic schools and the role they've played in American society.

His speech, "The Past is Prologue: American Catholic Education in the New Century," will be held at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 16, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom. The Joseph F. Rogus lecture is free and open to the public. The speech is named for the late professor of education at UD who died Sept. 16, 1998.

Walch, who is also the director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in Iowa, is the author or editor of 14 books including *Parish School*, published in 1996, *Catholicism in America*, published in 1989 and *The Heritage of American Catholicism*, a 28-volume series.

Walch says he will focus on three traditions of Catholic schools — tenacity, adaptability and community. He says it's the "determined parents, pastors and teachers who are willing to make enormous sacrifices" that have allowed U.S. Catholic schools to survive and excel despite receiving limited public funding.

Walch will also respond to critics who say that Catholic schools are becoming elitist, serving only the wealthy, suburban neighborhoods. Walch calls the Catholic schools population a "self-selecting elite that is not based on income." He says Catholic schools have always found ways to cover tuition costs for those who are not able to pay.

Walch also says a significant number of Catholic schools are based in the center-city neighborhoods. Though many of the students served are not Catholic, "I think of it as a terrific outreach program that will leave the imprint of Catholicism for the rest of their lives," he says.

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For media interviews, call **Timothy Walch** at (319) 643-5301 or e-mail twalch47@aol.com. For more information about the speech call **Mia Maio** in the School of Education at (937) 229-3557.