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# Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Named Religious Person of the Year by Knights of Columbus, Dayton Council 500

University of Dayton

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**NEWS RELEASE**

*(Editor's Note: Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., will receive the award at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 10, at Dayton Council 500, 267 Bainbridge St.)*

**BROTHER RAYMOND L. FITZ, S.M., NAMED RELIGIOUS PERSON OF THE YEAR BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, DAYTON COUNCIL 500**

DAYTON, Ohio — Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president of the University of Dayton, has been named "Religious Person of the Year" by the Knights of Columbus, Dayton Council 500.

It's the second major community award he's received within the past year. In October, Fitz accepted the Presidents Club Citizen Legion of Honor Award, the Dayton community's top award for volunteer service. He was recognized for his work in child protection, education reform, race relations and human services delivery.

The Knights of Columbus award is given annually to a priest, brother or sister in recognition of service to the Catholic church and the community, according to Phillip R. Mathes, deputy grand knight and program director for Dayton Council 500. Last year, Sister Rose Wildenhaus, who founded the St. Mary Development Corp., received the honor.

Fitz is being recognized for his long track record of community service and his national presence in Catholic higher education, according to Mathes. Nationally, Fitz was one of six college presidents who worked with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Vatican in the development of an apostolic constitution on Catholic universities.

Fitz, the longest-serving president in the University of Dayton's history, will step down in June after a record 23-year stint at the helm of Ohio's largest independent university and one of the nation's largest Catholic universities. He will return to campus in January to teach classes and work in the Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Center for Leadership in Community.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic service organization, with more than 1.6 million members in nearly 12,000 local councils. In 2000, the organization raised and distributed \$110 million to charitable causes and volunteered 56 million hours of service.

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For more information about the award, contact **Phil Mathes** at (937) 275-1003.

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