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NEWS RELEASE

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU TO AWARD HONORARY DEGREE TO FITZ BECAUSE OF 'EXTRAORDINARY' NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

DAYTON, Ohio — Chaminade University of Honolulu will award an honorary doctorate to Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president of the University of Dayton, on March 9 because of his "extraordinary" leadership in Catholic higher education.

"Chaminade University is pleased to recognize Brother Ray as an extraordinary leader in Catholic higher education, an exemplary model of Marianist ideals, a person of substantial accomplishments and a gracious partner," said Sue Wesselkamper, president of Chaminade University of Honolulu.

Fitz will receive the honor at a convocation observing the 45th anniversary of the founding of Chaminade University, which is one of three Catholic, Marianist universities in the world. The University of Dayton and St. Mary's University in San Antonio were also founded by the Society of Mary, a Roman Catholic teaching order that values collaboration and community service.

"For more than 20 years, Brother Ray, in a collaborative and pragmatic style, has translated the ideals of Catholic and Marianist education into a dynamic, faith-centered university community that is a model of excellence and innovation in learning, leadership and service," Wesselkamper said. "Brother Ray has extended the resources of the University of Dayton and his own personal commitment to forge a generous and productive partnership with Chaminade University that has resulted in extensive and successful administrative and academic program collaboration."

Fitz, 59, has led the University of Dayton, Ohio's largest independent university and one of the nation's largest Catholic universities, since 1979. The Akron, Ohio, native is the longest-serving president in UD's 151-year history.

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For a digital photo of Brother Ray Fitz, S.M., contact Teri Rizvi at (937) 229-3241 or rizvi@udayton.edu.