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DAYTON, Ohio, February 3, 1972 --- The Kettering Fund of Dayton has awarded the University of Dayton a $50,000 grant for student assistance to graduates of Montgomery County high schools who would like to attend the University but cannot see their way clear financially, Reverend Raymond A. Roesch, S.M., University President, announced today. The gift funds will be available to high school seniors who will enter the University in the fall.

The Kettering Fund gift is the first major contribution to the University's 19th Annual Support Program, which starts later this month, and will be directed toward obtaining financial assistance for students who would like to attend the University. While the campaign is designed to raise funds for all students there will be an initial concentration on assistance to Dayton area young people, since the Kettering gift is designated for this purpose. The program will be administered through the University's Student Aid & Scholarship Office.

Mrs. Eugene W. Kettering said: "In the name of the committee for the Kettering Fund, I am pleased to make this award to the University of Dayton in response to a critical need. I am aware of the financial and enrollment problems inherent in today's private educational institutions and believe that the present grant will help in the solution of at least part of them."

In thanking the Kettering Fund for the substantial gift, Father Roesch said: "We are convinced of the continuing importance and necessity of a dual system of education in our present society. I encourage the alumni and other friends to participate as generously as possible in support of this year's effort by the University to obtain the funds required to make the current program a lasting one.

"There are currently many attractive financial opportunities available for students at the University," Father Roesch continued, "but this new grant is designed primarily for students who might not be eligible for any of the other non-repayable grant opportunities. State and Federal non-repayable money normally is limited to students from families with income below $9,000."

All Dayton area students interested in attending the University of Dayton but unable to do so because of their financial circumstances are urged to apply for one of these grants, Father Roesch said. At least 100 non-repayable awards of up to $500 each will be available for the 1972-73 academic year. Prompt application will help assure favorable consideration by Mr. James Hoover, Director of Student Aid and Scholarship.

Father Roesch pointed to the strong efforts which the University has made in helping local students financially through its student aid and scholarships program. He noted that the school, over its 122 years, has served the people of the surrounding community. He pointed with pride to the local residents and organizations who have supported the Marianist school as witness some 8,000 local alumni and the success of the 1956 and 1962 capital funds campaigns, and the current New Horizons Program which is within $40,000 of its $3.3 million goal.

"Assisting Dayton area youth," concluded Father Roesch, "is one way of showing our appreciation to the community."

Mr. Hoover, who will direct the assistance program, said that the new gift offers another opportunity for financial aid to high school students who are graduating from local high schools this year.