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THE REV. JAMES L. HEFT, S.M.
APPOINTED UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON PROVOST

DAYTON, Ohio, February 14, 1989—The Rev. James L. Heft, S.M., chair of the religious studies department at the University of Dayton, has been selected as UD's next provost. The appointment is effective August 15, 1989, when Brother Joseph W. Stander, S.M., steps down after 15 years to return to teaching in the mathematics department.

The provost is the chief academic officer of the university and reports directly to the president.

"Along with strong support from the faculty, staff and administration, Father Heft brings to the position an excellent vision of the University as a private institution and as a Marianist, Catholic university," said Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., UD president. "Such vision will be an important ingredient in our continuing efforts to achieve academic excellence."

Heft, a Cleveland native, was selected after a six-month nationwide search, which Fitz called "the most diligent and thorough search ever done at the University." During December and January, five finalists for the job visited UD to meet with the campus community. Before the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees approved Fitz's recommendation to appoint Heft, the search had narrowed to two finalists. Heft was selected over Ronald Collins, academic vice president and provost at Eastern Michigan University.

As provost, Heft will be responsible for setting the strategic direction for UD's various academic units; allocating resources to "sustain excellence in teaching, scholarship and research;" developing enrollment strategy; representing UD to
external publics; formulating academic policies in conjunction with the Academic Senate; and coordinating the budgetary process.

Heft has served as chair of the religious studies department since 1983. He is a member of the executive committee and the vice president of the Academic Senate, a policy-making group that consists of the provost, deans and elected faculty and students. He has published one book, *John XXII (1316-1334)* and *Papal Teaching Authority*, and more than 50 articles. Most of his writing has focused on Catholic theology and the nature and limits of teaching authority in the Catholic church. From 1970 to 1977, he served on the board of trustees.

A UD alumnus, Heft graduated in 1966 with a B.A. in philosophy and a B.S. in education. He holds an M.A. in theology (1971) and a Ph.D. in historical theology (1977) from the University of Toronto. Before joining the faculty in the religious studies department in 1977, he taught at Moeller and Purcell high schools in Cincinnati and spent two years as director of the Bergamo Ecumenical Center.

Heft replaces Brother Joseph W. Stander, S.M., who has served as vice president for academic affairs and provost since 1974. Stander, who fostered the integration of computing into the curriculum, has been responsible for the accreditation of numerous programs on campus. He joined the teaching ranks at UD in 1960 in the mathematics department, where he also served as acting chairman several times. During a five-year tenure as dean of graduate studies, the number of graduate programs doubled and three doctoral programs were initiated.

The University of Dayton, a Catholic co-educational institution founded by the Society of Mary (Marianists) in 1850, is Ohio's largest independent university and the nation's ninth largest Catholic university. Approximately 11,000 undergraduate and graduate students currently attend the University of Dayton.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For media interviews, Father Jim Heft can be reached at (513) 229-4321. Brother Joseph Stander can be reached at (513) 229-2245.