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BROTHER RAYMOND L. FITZ, S.M. CHOSEN
TO BE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

DAYTON, Ohio, May 19, 1973 -- Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., was chosen to be the 17th President of the University of Dayton, it was announced Thursday, May 18, at 1 p.m. by the University trustees in a convocation called for that purpose.

Brother Fitz, a member of the University faculty since 1968, will serve an internship of under a year with the current President of the University, the Reverend Raymond A. Boesch, who has previously announced his plans to retire from that post once his successor is inaugurated.

Brother Fitz is a member of the Society of Mary, a Roman Catholic teaching order founded in 1817 in Bordeaux, France by Fr. William Chaminade.

He will continue as executive director of UD's Center for Christian Renewal, a position he has held since October 27, 1976, until his successor in that post is chosen. The Center is concerned with teaching and research in the areas of religion, education, and social justice.

As an associate professor in UD's School of Engineering, Brother Fitz also serves as director of the Engineering and Public Policy Group. He teaches courses in policy analysis, management, and organizational design for public sector organizations.

It was announced at the convocation that one of Brother Fitz's immediate tasks as President-elect will be to draw to a close those assignments with which he has been involved at UD.

While seeing enrollment and finances as important problems for higher education in the 1980s, Brother Fitz has been quoted as saying that at UD "the major question for the 1980s is to discover and to create the modes of collaboration that will allow the University of Dayton to become a major Catholic university which is responsive to the needs of the Church and the community and is capable of providing significant leadership."

"Collaboration" is a word Brother Fitz frequently uses when talking of UD's future. He calls for a "renewed partnership...between the Marianist religious community, and the various groups and coalitions -- faculty, administration, students, and parents -- which make up the University."

He sees the University as having a strong foundation for the future because of the institution's good fiscal management and its climate of professionalism. "Most of the faculty have demonstrated," Brother Fitz says, "a tremendous capacity for work and commitment -- a resource for which there is just no dollar equivalent."

A 1964 graduate of the University of Dayton with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, Brother Fitz holds a Master of Science and doctoral degree, both in electrical engineering, from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

Brother Fitz has provided leadership in the following areas of research while at UD:

-- the design of a long-range planning system for a liberal arts college.

-- the development of a long-range plan for environmental education in the U.S for H.E.W.

-- the design of the University's "Project Tapis Vert" (Project Green Carpet), an integrated rural development project in the Republic of Niger.

-- a workshop on urban community development and policy formation for the Dayton City Commission.

-- the design of a program management system for Catholic Relief Services.

Under his leadership, the Engineering and Public Policy Group has developed computer designs and applications for Interpretive Structural Modeling, a tool for analyzing and designing complex systems.

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Brother Fitz has served as a consultant to the Kettering Foundation/HUD program on Urban Policy Training and as a consultant to Catholic Relief Services under its Development Program Grant from the Agency for International Development. In 1973-1974, Brother Fitz was a Foundation fellow of the Kettering Foundation where his work included research on social transformation, values and the future, urban attractiveness, and an analysis of complex systems. Also during that period, he began his research on world food problems.

A member of the Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Groups and of the Engineering Management Group of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), Brother Fitz has read at IEEE conferences, several papers on structural modeling and planning. In addition to his other publications, he has also conducted a number of decision analysis workshops.

The appointment of Brother Fitz as President-elect was preceded by twenty-seven months during which a selection process was chosen and used by the University community. The first step in that process called for the appointment of a qualifications committee to outline the priority needs for this position. University contributions were solicited for this important phase of the selection process. At the February, 1977 meeting of the Trustees, a list of desirable qualifications were presented and approved and a search committee was established. This committee met 14 times in the past year to outline the task, review the qualifications, set up and screen a preliminary list of candidates and finally to interview the five, final candidates. Widespread involvement of the University community in the search process was requested and received. The final meetings resulted in a review of the campus contributions, as well as that developed by the Search Committee itself. A recommendation was carried by the Chairman of the Search Committee, Peter Kuntz, to the Board of Trustees at a meeting on the morning of Thursday, May 18.

Fr. Roesch spoke at the convocation and outlined the past 19-year history of UD during his term of office. He began by describing the early sixties as a time of growth. Subsequently he described the late sixties and the early seventies as a time when there was "a revolution, but also a time when there were some very important and necessary changes. And, now I would say we have just completed a third phase, a time when the University of Dayton was affected very, very sharply by what happened to the public educational system in the State of Ohio, and particularly right here in the City of Dayton. We went almost overnight from about 10,000 to 7,000 people. It was a time of serious retrenchment, when we had to do things we had not done before in order to recover the position we once had. There are people in this audience that we have to thank for that turn around, for the strength of the University. At today's meeting of the Board of Trustees, I was able to report a sound financial position of the University, something that was not true two or three years ago.

"Now we are coming to a fourth phase, and coming immediately, and it's going to call for another major change. I am going to be turning over the University to an individual who brings an entirely different background than that of my own. He is interested in management, organization, and systems.

"The changes that are going to have to take place in this University are vital to its future. I look forward to working with Brother Ray during this coming year, and turning over all the work that's on my desk, turning over all the files, turning over my expense account, and I do wish him well. I would also like to say that I will stay at the University and be helping it meet the fourth phase in its coming history."
Upon his announcement as President-elect, Brother Fitz made the following statement to the assembled convocation:

"I would like to thank and express my appreciation to the Board of Trustees for the confidence they expressed in choosing me as President of the University.

"It is quite a challenge to follow in the footsteps of Father Roesch -- who has provided outstanding leadership to the University for almost two decades. With the foundation he has prepared, I will have a good start. I look forward to preparing myself for this challenge.

"The eighties will be a critical time for the University of Dayton -- a time in which we must confront significant problems and yet in which we face a new set of challenging opportunities.

"I believe that we, who make up the University community, students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff and administration can collaborate to find imaginative resolutions to the problems of the 80s and to creatively explore and respond to the opportunities that the coming time will present to us.

"I believe that we can promise to the peoples and communities of the greater Dayton-Miami Valley that we will endeavor to maintain and intensify our programs of education, research, and service. We hope to be an active partner in the shaping of the future of our region.

"To the Church and religious communities, especially the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the U.S. Catholic Church, we can promise to be of continued service and a force for prophetic leadership, for dialogue, and for reconciliation in this important time of transition.

"Although I anticipate a rough road ahead, I look forward to the challenge of being of service to the University, to the community, and the Church."