

Media contact:

Lesley Sims, Holy Names University, 510-436-1405 or sims@hnu.edu

Holy Names University Inaugurates 17th President

OAKLAND, California; March 09, 2011 – Dr. William J. Hynes will be inaugurated as the seventeenth president of Holy Names University (HNU) on Wednesday, March 16, at 3 p.m. A reception will take place immediately following the ceremony in the Valley Center for Performing Arts on the HNU campus.

Ron Rosequist, Chairman of the Board for HNU, will open the celebration and introduce the Honorable Carol A. Corrigan, Justice of the California Supreme Court. Bishop Salvatore Cordileone will follow with the Invocation. Dr. Hynes will receive greetings from Katherine Kwong - Congressional Aide for Congresswoman Barbara Lee; Lewis Cohen - Senior Policy Advisor for Mayor Jean Quan; Sr. Jo'Ann DeQuattro – Representing the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary; Sr. Barbara Bray - Superintendent of the Oakland Diocese; Rabbi Shelley Waldenberg; Brother Mel Anderson - President Emeritus St. Mary's College of California; Dr. Janet Holmgren - President, Mills College and Dr. Kenneth Wolfe - The Church of England. Keeping with the theme of "liberating the spirit", the program will include a musical opening conducted by the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. Bishop John S. Cummins, Bishop Emeritus of Oakland, will close the celebration with a Benediction.

This two-day event will celebrate HNU's history of education, social justice and civic responsibility in the Oakland community. In the spirit of community service and in celebration of HNU's founding campus site by Lake Merritt, on March 17 (the second day of the inauguration activities) the HNU faculty, staff and administrators will host a "Lake Merritt Clean-up Day".

HNU was founded in 1868 by six Canadian sisters of the Holy Names. The University has grown to 1216 undergraduates and masters level students. Known for its excellent education rooted in the liberal arts and Catholic traditions, HNU challenges students of all ages, races, religions and cultures to use their belief in human quality, social justice, and civic engagement to liberate their spirits and transform our world. "HNU's radical commitment to diversity, hospitality and social justice is phenomenal. It is one of the major advantages of Holy Names University," reflects Dr. Hynes, "and right now, where we stand, there's no better and no more important place for an educational institution to be. Because we are part of an inspiring, energizing, empowering organization, with God's help we can produce inspiring, energizing and powerful results."

Hynes was selected president on August 1, 2010, after an extensive national search. Dr. Hynes is a distinguished teacher, scholar, and educational leader. He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Chicago in the History of Christian Thought, another M.A. in Catholic Theology from Marquette University, his B.A. from Conception College, and Certificates from both Harvard University and the University of Geneva. A year-long NEH Fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill allowed him to work with Charles Long, a pre-eminent scholar of African-American religious history.

Dr. Hynes has served successfully as President of St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin; Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Saint Mary's College of California; and Dean of the College at Regis University in Denver, Colorado. He has held faculty appointments at all of these institutions and has taught undergraduate and graduate students for more than 20 years.

For more information on Dr. Hynes' inauguration, visit www.hnu.edu/inauguration.

###