

*Inaugural Investiture of Dr. Francis M. Lazarus
President, The University of Dallas*



Remarks by Harry J. Longwell

*Director and Executive Vice President
Exxon Mobil Corporation*

&

*Chairman of the Board of Trustees
The University of Dallas ~ Dallas, Texas*

23 October 2004

Thank you, Dr. Jodziewicz. [JOSH-O-WITZ]

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I bid a warm welcome to one and all – distinguished guests, members of the faculty and administration, students, family, and dear friends.

This is truly an historic day for the University of Dallas, as we join together in Christian unity for the inaugural investiture of Dr. Francis M. Lazarus as the seventh president of this great institution.

The process that resulted in the selection of the university's new chief executive began early this year.

Under the direction of the Board of Trustees, representatives from all segments of the University of Dallas community – including faculty, alumni, and students – participated in the review of candidates.

Trustee Manny Zuniga wisely and ably led the search committee of the Board of Trustees.

It was a rigorous undertaking in which the search committee identified and interviewed many highly qualified candidates.

In the end, however, it became very clear that Dr. Francis M. Lazarus is the right person to lead the university of Dallas.

He is truly an individual whose academic and intellectual achievements, proven leadership, integrity, and Christian faith make him superbly qualified for this leadership position.

Most recently, he has served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of the University of San Diego.

Before that, he held leadership positions at several educational institutions including Marquette University, the University of Dayton, Salem College, Memphis State University, and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

President Lazarus earned an undergraduate degree in classical languages and philosophy from Canisius College, and holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in classical languages from Cornell University.

In 1990, Pope John Paul II outlined his vision for Catholic higher education in a document titled *ex corde ecclesiae* – from the heart of the Church.

In his first Faculty Day address two months ago, Dr. Lazarus alluded to that document in words that resonate with us today.

As he put it so eloquently, the University of Dallas is a Catholic institution, founded *ex corde ecclesiae*, from the heart of the church, and intended by the resolute choice of its founders and the equally resolute practice of its faculty, students, and alumni to be a clarion voice of support for the authoritative teaching of the Church and for the preservation and development of the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Close Quote.

The other half of the Lazarus team is Frank's wife, Carol.

Together, they have raised a wonderful family during their 36-year marriage – a family bonded by the unity of their strength, love, and Christian faith.

Their children include their daughter, Cathy;

A daughter, Julie and her husband, Dave – the proud parents of their two granddaughters, ZO-EE and EL-EE;

And their son, Jim.

Please join me in recognizing Carol and the Lazarus family.

As you know, Dr. Lazarus assumed the presidency of the University of Dallas in July of this year.

We held our first meeting of the Board of Trustees earlier this month, and it is very clear that Frank Lazarus has a firm grasp of the university's needs.

The university must continue to excel academically and be the Catholic "University of Choice" for a highly valued business and liberal arts education.

We are all proud of what the leaders, faculty, students, and graduates of the University of Dallas have accomplished in the first 50 years.

But it is also clear that much work remains if we are to sustain our academic standards, increase our high-quality student population, and meet the ever-present financial challenges.

We must also pursue a thoughtful growth plan to assure the success of the university in the next 50 years and beyond.

These are the objectives of the Board of Trustees, and I know the entire university community endorses them.

Frank Lazarus has a plan to accomplish these objectives, and the Trustees of your university will be actively engaged with his administration and the faculty to make certain it succeeds.

Your trustees have been tireless workers in dealing with many issues the university has faced over the last few years.

We have a strong group of long-term trustees, and we are very pleased with the enthusiasm and commitment of the nine new trustees who have joined the Board in the last year and a half.

With the launch of a new long-term plan for the university – and with next year's capital campaign in conjunction with our 50-year celebration, the University of Dallas will be well positioned to meet any future challenges.

Dear friends – there is every reason to be confident about the future of our university – and in its vital educational mission and Christian principles.

St. Augustine taught us a profound truth that "to wisdom belongs the intellectual apprehension of eternal things – to knowledge, the rational understanding of temporal things."

The Trustees believe that Dr. Francis M. Lazarus embraces this truth and is the right man to lead this university with wisdom and strength.

And so, Frank – on behalf of the Trustees – we look forward to working with you for the continued success of this university.

To all our dear friends in the University of Dallas family – I want to assure you that we remain faithful in every way to our Christian mission as a Catholic institution of higher learning.

The Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty are passionately committed to making this the very best, principled liberal arts Catholic university in the nation.

Frank, we welcome you and Carol, and we pledge to both of you our support in every way for your success and that of the University of Dallas.

[PAUSE AND LEAD AUDIENCE IN APPLAUSE]

And now, it is my great honor to invite The Most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann – Bishop of Dallas and Chancellor of the University of Dallas – to join me at the lectern for the presentation of the Presidential Medallion.

[BISHOP GRAHMANN REMARKS - PLACES THE MEDALLION ON DR. LAZARUS]

[BISHOP GRAHMANN STEPS ASIDE AND LONGWELL CONTINUES]

Ladies and gentlemen, I present the President of the University of Dallas, Dr. Francis M. Lazarus.

[BISHOP GRAHMANN AND LONGWELL RETURN TO THEIR SEATS]

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