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UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO--UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

Address by the Very Rev. John E. Baer, President of the USD College for Men and USD Coordinator for Unification, September 8, 1969.

TEXT:

I join Sister Morris in welcoming back members of the faculty and all returning students, and join all in welcoming new students and faculty members--it is the University Community that welcomes you.

The general goal of every university is education. Thus, our primary purpose at the University of San Diego is to educate students in their pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

A university is a community of scholars. USD is such a community--and, as stated in our aims, we are dedicated to the ideals of Catholic wisdom, combined with a liberal education.

The truth shall set you free...and the goal of a USD education is to free each of us from ignorance, from prejudice, from the arrogance of easy assumptions, to help toward the ideal of achieving true and humane life.

We believe the University will have succeeded in progress toward this goal insofar as all of us come to realize that individual rights carry with them corresponding responsibilities; and that openness to ideas and to change requires a courageous stand for principles.

A unique aspect of USD today is the development of a unified basis for its future--well known to those already established as part of the University Community, soon to become known to all of you who are new, as you become involved.

In the progressive unification of the College for Women and College for Men, we are involved in a process, not just of putting together two existing schools, but of helping to create, really, a new institution,

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where the individual strengths of two colleges can be combined for the betterment of the whole.

At times the process may seem slow, even to the most patient, but changes already accomplished attest to the fact of true progress and, it is important that what we do now be done carefully and with solid planning, as it will affect USD for years to come.

Already many of you have experienced the unification of some academic departments, and the reordering of parallel curricula. And the reports, from both faculty and students, attest to the advantage of coeducational classes and wider curricular offerings.

The student bodies themselves have taken a tremendous step forward-- to the point that we now have one Associated Students organization, comprising the students from both the College for Men and College for Women. As you students know, many details still must be worked out; many problems still await wise solutions. Your wisdom and patience in finding the best solutions will provide the solid foundation on which the Associated Students organization will ultimately rest.

So, too, it is with faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees of our two colleges. We can achieve the unification we desire, and we can best do it by sincere and constant communication, between our counterparts in the two institutions, and among all the components of the university community: students, faculty, administrations, and Board of Trustees.

These remarks may seem overly idealistic, but they must be--considering the ideal to which we are all committed. This doesn't mean that there will not be obstacles along the way to finding the best form which our University should have. But in this formation period, we must strive for a unity of purpose, as well as recognize the values in the diversity of things which

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we each have to contribute. And, the extent of the contribution and involvement which all of us are willing to make will determine the kind of year that lies ahead for us--as well as the many years that lie ahead for the University itself.

I hope for, and genuinely anticipate a good year. I again invite all to join together today at noon in the Immaculata Chapel to offer Mass with Bishop Quinn, our Provost, to ask God's blessing, for all of us individually and as a community, for the year that we now begin, and for the years of USD.

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