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9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 7
USD TO RENAME BUILDING
IN HONOR OF BISHOP MAHER

The Most Rev. Leo T. Maher, bishop of the San Diego Catholic Diocese, will be honored at an outdoor ceremony Saturday, July 7, when the University of San Diego renames its administration building:

Bishop Leo T. Maher Hall.

Set to retire in July as USD Chairman of the Board, Maher is being recognized for almost two decades of service and contributions to the University.

Dr. Author E. Hughes, USD president, said, "we can trace a lot of our success directly to the leadership of Bishop Maher. I have worked side-by-side with him for 18 years and feel a great deal of gratitude to him for his commitment to the university."

Maher, who turns 75 on July 1 and is recuperating from brain surgeries in April and May, is expected to deliver remarks at the **private half-hour ceremony. Between 150 and 200 guests are expected.

The 9:30 a.m. ceremony will take place in front of the main entrance to the administration building, which is being renamed from DeSales Hall to Bishop Leo T. Maher Hall.

Scheduled speakers are:

* Trustee Ernest Hahn, who becomes chairman of the USD board upon Maher's retirement.

* Trustee George Pardee, a personal friend of the bishop's who helped organize the July 7 program.
* Dr. Bill Doyle, a long-time personal friend of Maher who painted the portrait of the bishop that will be unveiled at the ceremony. It will hang in the Maher Hall conference room.

Several other Trustees and a number of religious plan to attend, including co-adjutor Bishop Robert Brom, who will succeed Maher; the Rev. Raymond Maher, Maher's brother; and Sister Mary Clare Maher, his sister. State Sen. Wadie Deddah also plans to attend.

Maher has been chairman of the USD Board of Trustees since the 1972 merger. Maher was among those who oversaw the establishment of USD, with the merger of the diocesan-owned and operated College for Men and the College for Women, run by the Sacred Heart nuns.

In an interview -- shortly before his surgeries -- with USD public relations officers, Maher reflected on his USD work. "I think the greatest contribution I've made is getting people to work together, bringing reconciliation and unity to the University, and then getting USD's name out into the community."

On the building that will bear his name, Maher said, "the University never would have made it without DeSales Hall. There was no place to bring everybody together; no center at the university."

Once a diocesan seminary, DeSales Hall is the same building that Bishop Maher deeded to the then fledgling, financially troubled USD.

At the same time Maher deeded the building, valued at $10 million, he forgave a $1.7 million debt owed from the building's construction. In addition to administrative offices, the building houses freshman dormitories and was named after St. Francis DeSales.

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** The ceremony, and Rose Garden reception immediately following, is open to media, but closed to the public. Parking permits not required.