

**DR. JOHN J. DEGIOIA, PRESIDENT OF GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY,
TO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREE AT RIVIER COLLEGE**
(Rivier's News Report, March 20, 2012)*

Office of Marketing & Communications, Rivier College

Rivier College will celebrate its seventy-seventh commencement on Saturday, May 12, 2012 and present an honorary degree to the 48th President of Georgetown University.

“I am delighted to announce that **Dr. John J. DeGioia** has accepted our invitation to serve as the Commencement Speaker and recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during this year's commencement ceremony,” stated Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, President of Rivier College. “Dr. DeGioia will extend an official welcome to the Rivier community from the first Catholic University in the country as we anticipate our status change to the newest American Catholic University on July 1, 2012.”

Dr. DeGioia is a graduate of Georgetown having earned both a bachelor's degree in English and his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University. Upon his appointment as President on July 2, 2001, he set a path to ensure that Georgetown would expand and deepen its engagement with both the local and global communities. He has enhanced Georgetown's relationship with the many political, cultural, corporate, and economic resources of Washington, D.C. and has led the development of initiatives designed to focus on interreligious dialogue, global health and emerging economies. He regularly teaches courses on campus and in Fall 2011 taught a course in the Ignatian Seminar Program called “Living Global.”

Beyond the Georgetown hilltop, Dr. DeGioia is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Forum for the Future of Higher Education, the Consortium on Financing Higher Education and the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metro Area. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

Under his leadership, Georgetown has completed a \$1 billion capital campaign and launched the largest expansion of campus facilities in the institution's history. He places special emphasis on sustaining and strengthening Georgetown's Catholic and Jesuit identity and its responsibility to serve as a voice and an instrument for justice.

Georgetown University is the oldest Catholic and Jesuit institution of higher learning in the United States. The University was founded in 1791 by Baltimore Archbishop John Carroll, the first Roman Catholic bishop in the United States, who was concerned about the education of clergy and their ability to deliver a learned and eloquent sermon to the faithful. Archbishop Carroll was a friend of both Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, who, out of gratitude for his support during the American Revolution, gave a modified version of the seal of the United States to the institution that is now Georgetown University, and that seal is still in use. ■

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