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Colorful pageantry to highlight inauguration of new Regis University president

Colorado Lt. Gov, Denver Mayor, Archbishop of Denver to participate

(DENVER) – Colorful pageantry, a host of traditional higher academic pomp and circumstance, and who’s who list of special guests from around the nation will be the order of the day when Regis University marks the official welcoming of its 24th president with a festive inauguration for Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J., at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012 at the University’s North Denver (Lowell) campus.

Colorado Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, City of Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Archbishop of Denver, Most Rev. Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila, 12 university and college presidents, and delegates from around the nation and Regis University faculty will be among the 300 people participating in a festive and colorful banner-filled procession. About 1,200 are expected to attend the event, which is open to the public.

The inauguration ceremony is the showcase event of two days of celebration for the Omaha, Neb., native, who became the third Regis University president in nearly 40 years. The festivities begin Sept. 24 with a 3 p.m. Mass of Celebration in the University’s Field House. Following the main event – the outdoor inauguration ceremony on Sept. 25- is a reception from 5-6:30 p.m., on the University’s Boettcher Commons, with a private dinner wrapping up the evening.

The two-hour inauguration features an invocation by the Archbishop of Denver, Most Rev. Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila, charges by Lieutenant Governor Garcia, Mayor Hancock and a host of local and national guests, a keynote presentation by the president of the University of San Francisco, Rev. Stephen A. Privett, S.J., missioning by the Provinicial of the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus, the Very Rev. Douglas W. Marcouiller, S.J., an inaugural address by Father Fitzgibbons, and a benediction by Sr. Barbara Quinn, RSCJ, D.Min. from Boston College.

Father Fitzgibbons became Regis University president on June 1, succeeding Rev. Michael Sheeran, S.J.. Father Fitzgibbons most recently served as associate provost for faculty development at Marquette University. He joined the Jesuits in 1973 and was ordained a priest in 1985.

“Building on the excellent work done by Father Sheeran, I look forward to ensuring that the enrollment, retention and promised academic excellence of Regis University continue in upward trajectories,” said Father Fitzgibbons, who celebrated his birthday on the same day he officially became president of Colorado’s only Jesuit Catholic university.

Father Fitzgibbons earned a Ph.D. in English from Loyola University Chicago, an S.T.M. in theology from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, a Master of Divinity from the Weston School of Theology, a Master of Arts in English from the University of Chicago, and a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and English from Saint Louis University.

For more information about the inauguration, visit www.regis.edu/inauguration.
ABOUT REGIS UNIVERSITY
Regis University, with nearly 15,000 students, comprises Regis College, the College for Professional Studies and the Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions. The University is recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a Top School in the West and is one of 28 Catholic Jesuit colleges and universities throughout the United States. Regis University is located at 3333 Regis Blvd. at 50th and Lowell Streets in north Denver. In addition to its North Denver Lowell campus, the University has campus locations in Colorado Springs, Interlocken at Broomfield, Denver Tech Center, Thornton (dual-language campus), Loveland and in Henderson, Nevada. For news releases, fact sheet, experts list or university highlights, visit the “Media Center” at www.regis.edu/media. For more information about Regis University visit www.regis.edu.