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Prominent Political Commentator Michael Knowles to Deliver Commencement Address at Ave Maria University

Prestigious Catholic school celebrates its 2025 graduation class

AVE MARIA, Fla., April 8, 2025 – Ave Maria University announced today that Michael Knowles, the celebrated host of “The Michael Knowles Show,” produced by the Daily Wire, will deliver the commencement address at its graduation ceremony, held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 10, 2025, at the Tom Golisano Field House on Ave Maria University’s campus.

Knowles, who is a devout Catholic, will be presented with an honorary doctorate from Ave Maria University. In addition to this recognition, Knowles has received numerous honors, including the Fr. Benedict Groeschel Award from Good Counsel Homes, the Conservative Mind Award from The American Conservative magazine, and the Courage Under Fire Award from Regina Caeli Academy. In addition to podcasts and radio, Knowles appears regularly on television, and his writing has been featured in the Daily Wire, the Claremont Reviews of Books, the American Conservative, the American Mind and Fox News, among other outlets. He is a graduate of Yale University and has lectured at universities and research institutes around the world.

In 2017, Knowles published the No. 1 national bestselling treatise “Reasons to Vote for Democrats,” a satirical book which President Donald Trump hailed as “a great book for your reading enjoyment.” In 2021, he published his second book, “Speechless,” which also reached No. 1 on the national bestseller chart.

In early 2020, Knowles teamed up with Senator Ted Cruz to launch “Verdict,” which quickly rose to the top spot on the charts across all podcasts. Later that year, after an appearance guest-hosting “The Rush Limbaugh Program,” his daily podcast became syndicated to terrestrial radio. Also that year, he was named a Lincoln Fellow at the Claremont Institute.

“We are thrilled and honored to have Michael Knowles serve as Ave Maria University’s 2025 commencement speaker,” said Mark Middendorf, president of Ave Maria University. “As a renowned thought leader and communicator, Michael’s insightful commentary and writings have educated and inspired countless Americans. What makes his witness especially compelling is the way he lives out his Catholic faith — with conviction and integrity — both at home and in the public square. We look forward to the message he will share with our graduating class.”

Ave Maria University’s commencement exercises, including Knowles’ address, will be closed to the public in order to accommodate the friends and families of the AMU Class of 2025. However, the ceremonies, including Knowles’ address, will be livestreamed on the University’s YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@AveMariaUniversityFL>

The commencement ceremony will be preceded by a baccalaureate Mass at 5 p.m. Friday, May 9, at the Ave Maria Catholic Church, followed by the president’s dinner at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 9, at the Bob Thomas Student Union. Tickets are not required to attend Mass. The dinner, which is open to all graduating seniors, their families and guests, and to all faculty and staff members, requires advanced reservations and tickets. Seating is limited; tickets are available first come, first serve.

For more information about Ave Maria University’s graduation, Mass and dinner, please visit <https://www.avemaria.edu/commencement>.

To schedule an interview with Roger Nutt, please contact [insert name of press contact and his or her phone number and email address].

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About Ave Maria University

Ave Maria University is a Catholic institution of higher learning located in Ave Maria, Florida. Ave Maria University was established in 2003 as a Catholic university, according to the guidelines of the Code of Canon Law by the Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida. The recognition of Ave Maria University as a Catholic university is granted upon the university’s commitment to continue to be guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church and faithfulness to the apostolic constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. Ave Maria University is committed to helping its students develop the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life and grow in their appreciation of truth. The goal of AMU is simple: to build the foundation of a truly Catholic university that forms future generations of truly Catholic men and women faithful to the Magisterium of the Church. For more information about Ave Maria University, please visit www.avemaria.edu.