



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CARDINAL O'MALLEY OF BOSTON TO BE
AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**

AVE MARIA, FL (February 18, 2016) – Ave Maria University President Jim Towey announced today that His Eminence, Seán Cardinal O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., will be the commencement speaker for this year's exercises in May.

“We are thrilled that Cardinal O'Malley is able to be with us on this special day and I know our graduates will be eager to hear his remarks,” Towey said. “His life experiences, his close friendship with Pope Francis, and his consistent advocacy for the sanctity of life, the dignity of the poor, and the need for joy and mercy in the lives of Christians, make him the ideal speaker in this Jubilee of Mercy the Holy Father has instituted this year.”

Cardinal O'Malley is in his 13th year as Bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston, and 46th as an ordained priest. He was elevated to the rank of Cardinal-Priest in 2006 and is a key advisor to Pope Francis, serving as a member of the group of eight Cardinals assisting the Holy Father on reforming the Church's governance and central administration. His Eminence holds both Master's and Doctoral degrees from The Catholic University of America, and was a professor there for four years. He currently is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of his alma mater. He also is no stranger to Florida, having served as Bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach prior to his appointment in Boston.

Ave Maria University will hold its 13th commencement exercises on May 7, 2016 in the Tom Golisano Field House. A record 211 undergraduate students are expected to receive diplomas, as well as 10 Master's and 2 Ph.D. candidates. Recent commencement speakers at Ave Maria University include former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Governor Rick Scott, Librarian of Congress James Billington, and Dr. Arthur Brooks, president of the American Enterprise Institute.

Ave Maria University is a Catholic, liberal arts institution of higher learning dedicated to the formation of joyful, intentional followers of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament, scholarship and service, inspired by Saint John Paul II and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and devoted to Mary, the Mother of God.

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Contact:
Stacy Laffere
Spokesperson, Ave Maria University
Office: 239-280-1565
stacy.laffere@avemaria.edu