For Immediate Release

May 12, 2006

Archbishop Brunett honored for work in ecumenism

(Seattle) Archbishop Alex J. Brunett will be honored Saturday, May 13 during commencement exercises at Gonzaga University for his efforts to promote dialogue between differing faith traditions.

Archbishop Brunett will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree for his lifelong commitment to interreligious dialogue and his efforts to further understanding of other faith traditions among Catholic people. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at Gonzaga's McCarthey Athletic Center.

"This is an unexpected honor," said Archbishop Brunett. "I am humbled and deeply appreciative of this recognition by Gonzaga University."

Archbishop Brunett studied for the priesthood at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome before being ordained to the priesthood in Rome on July 13, 1958. He was named Archbishop of Seattle by Pope John Paul II on October 28, 1997.

From 1973 to 1991, Archbishop Brunett served as Director of the Division of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the Archdiocese of Detroit and was President of the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers from 1974 to 1981. Outside his duties as a pastor for more than 35 years, Archbishop Brunett's ministry focused on international affairs and dialogue.

He served as a member or chairman of international committees and national dialogues, including Jewish/Roman Catholic, Islamic/Roman Catholic, and Orthodox/Roman Catholic. He recently completed five years as a member of the International Roman Catholic-World Methodist Dialogue and is immediate past Co-Chairman of ARCIC, the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission.

Archbishop Brunett is past President of the Ecumenical Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies, an organization he co-founded. In April 1996 he was named recipient of the DOVE Award, presented by the Ecumenical Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies. In 1996 he was elected chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

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