Mr. Chancellor, it is my special honour to present May Gutteridge, a person whose great compassion has brought comfort to the poor and needy of Vancouver's downtown east side. As anyone who knows her will freely attest, she is a remarkable woman -- remarkable for her faith, her benevolence, her tenacity in a just cause and her commitment to a humane society. And what is the source of this conviction and this strength? In her own words, "You cannot worship God and do nothing."

Born in Hampshire, England, May Gutteridge immigrated to Canada in 1955 with her husband Arthur. In 1961 she was suddenly and profoundly moved by the realization that a task of unknown dimensions lay ahead. Immediately giving up her employment, her service to the needy began as she first entered the basement of St. James' Anglican Church in answer to a call for volunteer help to revitalize a church Pensioners' Club.

Characteristically for May Gutteridge, within the year the seed of this initial exposure quickly grew to blossom into the St. James' Social Service Society -- an organization which has now been sustained for over a quarter century by her heartfelt maxim: "Our philosophy is that you don't do as little as you can for people; you do as much as you can." As the Society's Director, or "parish worker" as she prefers to be called, May Gutteridge is not one to see villains in human conduct. She is one for healing.

Under her guidance the St. James' Social Service Society now provides over fourteen separate social services for the destitute and the troubled, for the sick and the down-trodden. Along the way, May Gutteridge has mustered the support of hundreds of volunteers who have taken inspiration from her practical yet enlightened belief that, "When people are in deep trouble you should give them grand help."

For all her achievements, May Gutteridge's humility continues to shine forth. In 1981 she was honoured with the Order of Canada for her selfless devotion to the cause of Vancouver's poor. Shortly thereafter, she was heard to say "There's one thing bothering me about the Order of Canada. All this work is being done through the grace of God and it's not to my credit."

In describing May Gutteridge, I have not called on the words of the poets or on the aphorisms of the wise. Her own words are wise indeed and her actions have made poetry of her own being. Mr. Chancellor, I take the greatest pleasure, on behalf of the Senate of this University, in presenting May Gutteridge for the degree of Doctor of Laws, _honoris causa_.