Mr. Chancellor, Desmond Tutu is one of those rare individuals whose incandescent faith and whose deep humanity have made this world a far better place. In his commitment to justice and truth, to reason and compassion, he has touched the lives not only of the citizens of South Africa, but also of millions around the world.

Desmond Tutu once said, "We can become human only in fellowship, in community and in peace." From the very beginning of his calling to the Anglican clergy, he has never wavered in his conviction that all people can live in fellowship and harmony, never faltered in his theological commitment to the reconciliation of divided humanity, nor ever compromised his political commitment to the reconciliation of peoples in conflict.

As the general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, he proved to be an indomitable foe against apartheid, repeatedly risking imprisonment in his courageous crusade for justice and racial conciliation in South Africa. Under his spiritual leadership, the Council gave voice to the ideals and aspirations of millions of Christians and provided assistance to the victims of apartheid. At home, Desmond Tutu bravely condemned the use of violence by opponents of apartheid; abroad, he advocated economic sanctions against his country.

Throughout those many difficult and dangerous years, Desmond Tutu implored all South Africans to seek peaceful solutions between the black and white communities of their homeland, which had been so deeply wounded by a long history of prejudice and injustice. For his enduring efforts, he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. ' 

Subsequently, as the first black bishop of Johannesburg, he redoubled his efforts to bridge the chasm between communities divided by official racism in South Africa. In 1986, he was elected Archbishop of Cape Town. In this capacity, he continued his vigorous campaign to bring about the end of apartheid, denouncing at every opportunity the government's failure to make significant changes, and playing a leading role in the nationwide campaign of defiance that led a few short years later to the election of Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa.

Although he might well have celebrated this triumphant end to the struggle against apartheid by taking up a long planned and well deserved retirement, Archbishop Tutu accepted President Mandela's request in 1994 that he lead South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In that capacity he has written a unique new chapter in the development of restorative justice, recovering detailed evidence of the enormity of the crimes of apartheid, offering amnesty to
those responsible only as forgiveness for their full disclosure and contrition, and providing closure for victims as a result of access to truths otherwise denied them, and the promise (still imperfectly realized) of reparations for their pain and suffering.

Mr. Chancellor, Desmond Tutu has in a long life of service been a force for good in one of the most bitter struggles of our times. He is an icon of hope whose influence extends far beyond the borders of South Africa. Today, it is my honour to ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you confer upon him the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa.*