

University of Navarre

ADDRESS

by

The Very Reverend

JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA DE BALAGUER

Chancellor of the University

On the Occasion of the Conferring
of Doctorates «honoris causa» upon the
Distinguished Scholars

Jean Roche, Guilherme Braga da Cruz, Willy Onclin,
Ralph M. Hower, Otto B. Roegele, Carlos Jiménez Díaz

October 7, 1967

PAMPLONA
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"Wisdom is glorious, and never fades away, and is easily seen by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her" (Wisdom 6:13). These inspired words of Holy Scripture are as meaningful as ever today, a day of joy for the University of Navarre.

We have been solemnly reunited to admit to the Community of Scholars professors of other illustrious universities, who from now on are also an integral part of our University. In you, Distinguished Gentlemen, we see accomplished the human ideal described so eloquently by Divine Wisdom. You are outstanding in your cultivation of wisdom and in your love of the truth which you diligently seek, that it may later be the object of happy contemplation. You are truly most dignified servants of science because you dedicate your lives to the ambitious task of discovering its riches. But beyond this, the cultural tradition of Christianity brings a human completeness to your work, urging you to communicate with an open-spirited generosity these riches to your students through the happy labor you carry on in the classroom, where men are formed and their spirits raised.

We have all been delighted to hear the academic praise accorded to the new Doctors and the discussion of the merits that proclaim their right to the distinction with which the University of Navarre honors them. But I would like to add a few words

of my own to express the sincere admiration and appreciation that the University has for them and the cordial esteem I myself have for each. With your kind permission then I will address myself to them.

In Professor Jean Roche there is found the happy and harmonious synthesis of the scientist and the teacher that I have just referred to. The universal recognition of his research in the field of biochemistry has brought him an impressive series of Doctorates *honoris causa* from many European and American universities, added to which is the one we have conferred on him today. But of perhaps greater importance is another series: that of former students and colleagues who now occupy chairs in so many faculties in France and in countries representing four continents, certainly a most eloquent proof of his effectiveness as a teacher. In now honoring the Rector of the Sorbonne, the young University of Navarre wishes at the same time to honor her elder sister, this *Studium Generale* which from its seat in Paris has for so many centuries been a torch illuminating with its splendor the wide horizons of our Western culture.

From the venerable University of Coimbra, faithful storehouse of the most genuine academic traditions, comes another of our Doctors: its former Rector and one of the most eminent of its Faculty, Professor Guillermo Braga da Cruz. A historian of Portuguese law and perpetuator of a brilliant scientific school, Professor Braga da Cruz has always dedicated his juristic talents to the unselfish service of the community. In honoring him today, the University of Navarre is well aware of his investigations in the field of legal history, but cannot forget his other noteworthy merits. For in Professor Braga da Cruz we see equally well the exemplary university man who has had a most noble concern for the welfare of his fellow citizens and who has served with forgetfulness of self the great interests of his people, so beloved by us, both in defending them before the International Tribunal of The Hague and in the difficult undertaking of the development

of the new Portuguese code of civil law, to which he has made decisive historical and doctrinal contributions, as rigorous and profound as is all of his work.

A teacher of canonical science, an illustrious Professor and Dean of the famous University of Louvain has just been received into the ranks of our Doctors: Monsieur Guillaume Onclin. You are quite familiar with his outstanding personality, attested to by the very important scientific publications he has authored and by his teaching in the Faculties of both civil and canon law of Louvain. It is therefore no surprise that Professor Onclin has been one of the jurists who has contributed very effectively to the work of Vatican Council II. His university background and his cooperation in the labor of the Council were solemnly recognized by his being named Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the reform of the Code of Canon Law called upon to complete a task of historical importance in the renewed life of the Church of Christ.

The university has as its highest mission of service to men that of being a ferment in the society in which it lives: thus it should investigate the truth in all fields, from theology, the science of Faith which considers truths always present, to the other sciences which deal with the spirit and with nature.

In referring to the clear harmony characteristic of the *arbor scientiae*, I feel obliged, Gentlemen, to interrupt my discourse for a moment to express at this solemn time my deepest gratitude to the Distinguished Chapter of Canons of the Cathedral of Pamplona for unanimously agreeing to grant the use of the building of the old Cortes de Navarra, so that the Theological Institute of our University can begin functioning immediately.

Having fulfilled this most pleasant duty, we turn our gaze again to the horizon of the *universitas scientiarum* which is expanding now more than ever before to meet the new needs and requirements of current social conditions.

Aware of this unavoidable responsibility, universities in all countries have entered fields unknown until recent years, incorporating into their traditional curricula sciences and professions of recent origin. In so doing, the sophistication and intellectual dignity of these fields have been recognized as meriting them a permanent place in the university. The University has always exerted itself to give a positive answer to the imperative call of our times, and is therefore honored today to grant doctorates to two outstanding masters of these very modern disciplines, Professors Hower and Roegele.

Professor Ralph M. Hower is a distinguished specialist in business administration. The author of books and publications that have made him known throughout the world, he has always manifested a lively concern for human relations, a definite preoccupation for man himself, the first factor in economic and social activities. The University of Navarre owes a debt of gratitude to Professor Hower and to the Harvard University School of Business Administration for their invaluable assistance provided to the programs of the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de la Empresa. In honoring Professor Hower, we also honor the great Harvard University, whose Faculty includes as a distinguished member our new Doctor.

Taking its place with business administration, the field of social communications, so crucial in the contemporary world, has rightly acquired status in the university world. Professor Otto Bernard Roegele is a well known figure as a teacher and as a professional in the field of public information. A most worthy representative of the greatest cultural tradition of Central Europe, he is actively involved in journalism, while at the same time serving as Professor and Director of the Institute of Information Science in the illustrious and fertile University of Munich. The University of Navarre is deeply pleased to receive him into the ranks of its Doctors.

And now comes the moment (and it is one of deep emotion for me) to remember don Carlos Jiménez Díaz, who would have been among us today if God in His Divine Providence had not ordained otherwise. When we learned with sorrow of the death of Professor Jiménez Díaz the 18th of last May, there had already been approved the unanimous petition of the Faculty of the University of Navarre to award him the Doctorate *honoris causa*. And truly who could not at once recognize the patent greatness of his merits? Professor Jiménez Díaz has been an outstanding figure in Spanish medicine, a researcher, an incomparable diagnostician. He created a great medical institution. But he was above all a university man who dedicated himself with unlimited generosity to the formation of his students. His greatest accomplishment and the clear sign of the fruitfulness of his teaching is the medical school of thought he left behind, a school whose members are today professors in so many faculties and clinics of Spain.

The University of Navarre owes much to Professor Jiménez Díaz and I am happy to acknowledge that fact again. From the outset, he understood the importance of this educational and scientific institution, and with his experience and encouragement he cooperated most efficaciously in making it a reality. He was the first President of the Association of the Friends of the University of Navarre and until his death was the Honorary President. The Doctorate *honoris causa*, which today has been conferred on him posthumously, and the plaque which will honor his memory in the School of Medicine, are the homage of admiration and gratitude to this illustrious scientist, this man of good will, this beloved friend.

I now conclude, Distinguished Gentlemen. May my final words serve to express to you our sincere and cordial gratitude. The University of Navarre is well aware of the degree to which it has been enriched by receiving you into its Community of Scholars and appreciates what it has received. The example of

your lives and the stimulus of your merits will now be incentives for us to strive toward ever more ambitious goals with a renewed fervor, following the footsteps of Eternal Wisdom with a noble concern for the service of culture, the progress of the sciences and the highest good —so Christian— of all men.