CONFERRAL OF THE HONORARY DEGREE

honoris causa

For more than three decades, Dr. James Healy has served as the Director of the Office of Family Ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, sharing his expertise and insight throughout the country and abroad, helping "tens of thousands of couples get married or stay married." Throughout this time, he has also directed related family ministries, including baptism and work with divorced and widowed people.

Dr. Healy retired this past September, having served under three bishops and as an advisor to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Marriage and the Family. According to Joliet Diocese Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, "... Dr. Jim Healy...has ministered to and trained thousands in a vital component of our faith life--the domestic church. I am grateful for his expertise and his leadership these many years in family ministry, linking the journey of family life to the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ."

A highly-regarded speaker, writer, and consultant, both nationally and internationally, Dr. Healy has presented extensively on topics related to marriage and family for more than ninety dioceses, at national conferences throughout the United States, and abroad. He has created widely-used writings on marriage, including "How to Be Married and Stay Engaged," "Living Together and Christian Commitment," "Spirituality and Religion in Your Marriage," and "Making Happiness a Habit: Four Steps to a More Joyful Marriage."

Drawing on his extensive experience and expertise, Dr. Healy has contributed chapters to numerous books on marriage and family ministry, including "Marriage Among the Spiritual but Not Religious," in Love One Another: Catholic Reflections on How to Sustain Marriages Today (2010).

. "In the first year alone," notes Dr. Healy, "we trained 21,000 clergy, staff, and volunteers in how to recognize and prevent child sexual abuse."

Born in Decatur, Illinois and raised in Joliet, Dr. Healy entered the seminary as a high school student and continued through his