



Chaminade University

O F H O N O L U L U

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Kaponu Ryan
Office (808) 735-4797 Cell (808) 429-2972

ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTING AT CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY INCLUDED NEW "LAS POSADAS" CELEBRATION

HONOLULU—Dec. 5, 2007—Chaminade University lit up its campus for the holidays on **Monday, Dec. 3, 2007**. The festivities began at 7 p.m. with a special Las Posadas celebration parade, starting in front of Hale Lokelani student residence hall, proceeding to Hale Pohaku student residence hall, and finally to the front of Freitas Hall, where the lights were switched on, brightening up the whole campus.

Several dozen students, staff, faculty, family members and friends sang carols while accompanying the Virgin Mary and Joseph from one residence hall to another in Chaminade's rendition of Las Posadas, organized by Bro. Luis A. Gamboa, S.M.

Las Posadas is one of the most popular celebrations in Mexico during December. "Posadas" is Spanish for lodging. The celebration is done to remember the difficulties of Joseph and Mary, who were looking for a place to stay in Bethlehem.

When Chaminade's Las Posadas procession ventured to each residence hall, Joseph would ask for lodging and was denied room vigorously. Finally Joseph and Mary arrived at Freitas Hall, begging for lodging. Pres. Sue Wesselkamper, as innkeeper, welcomed them in gladly. The couple entered Freitas while the crowd of pilgrims with their candles waited below. Soon they returned with their baby as the 'pilgrims' applauded.

Onlookers were then welcomed in for refreshments. They were also invited to hit down three piñatas and to decorate the Loo Student Center tree.

To contact Bro. Gamboa for further information, email him at lgamboa@chaminade.edu or call (808) 739-8367.

Celebrating more than 50 years of educating students for life, service and successful careers, Chaminade University offers programs of study grounded in the liberal arts with day, evening, online and accelerated courses. The main campus is located in Kaimuki at 3140 Waiālae Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816, with 10 satellite locations around Oahu military bases and Catholic parishes and schools. For more information, visit the Chaminade Web site at www.chaminade.edu or call (808) 735-4711.

###