

Introducing Rev. Fr. Lawrence Biondi

He is not only a leader in higher education, but also a community leader, and a leader in social and intellectual development.

Rev. Fr. Lawrence Biondi holds a master's degree in linguistics (1966) and a doctorate in socio-linguistics (1975) both were conferred by Georgetown University. He has three degrees from Loyola University of Chicago and a licentiate in sacred theology from the Jesuit School of Theology at Chicago.

Biondi has dedicated enormous University resources to academics, student scholarships and financial aid, faculty research and state-of-the-art technology. He has recruited the finest faculty and students, increased the University's academic standards and achievements, and developed the University as a major research center. His ultimate vision is to establish Saint Louis University as the finest Catholic university in the United States.

In addition, Biondi has pursued language studies in French, Italian, Polish, Russian and Spanish. He has published four books and holds a certificate from Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management.

Rev. Biondi serves on the boards of several national organizations, and has been dubbed a Knight of the Italian Order of Merit by the president of Italy.

He was named St. Louis' "Citizen of the Year" for 2005. Awarded by a committee of former recipients, the honor is given to a community leader who demonstrates concern for St. Louis' growth and vitality.

In 2004, Rev. Biondi was the recipient of Mayor John H. Poelker Award, which honors community leaders who are committed to excellence in public affairs and demonstrate a passion for neighborhood and economic development in St. Louis.

In 2001, the St. Louis Ambassadors honored Rev. Biondi with the Leon R. Strauss Urban Pioneer Award, which is given to an individual in the St. Louis community who has contributed greatly to the development, restoration or improvement of St. Louis.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Educational also recognized Rev. Biondi in 2001 with the Chief Executive Leadership Award.

In 1999, readers of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch named Biondi one of St. Louis' "Citizens of the Century." In that same year, he won the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Arthritis Foundation, Eastern Missouri Chapter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored and delighted to present to you Rev. Fr. Lawrence Biondi, President of Saint Louis University, Missouri, The United States of America.