

Peter Gomes introduction:

(written for President Thomas de Witt)

Peter J. Gomes is a light force with which to be reckoned.

In his deep, resonant voice, the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister at Harvard University's Memorial Church, speaks with passion, perception and conviction on themes of daily living, using the wisdom of the scriptures to light and enlighten the hearts and minds of listeners and readers.

Acclaimed as one of America's greatest preachers (Time Magazine called him one of the top seven!), his power of voice, delivery and thought are legendary and long-standing.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1942, The Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes is an ordained American Baptist minister who has served in The Memorial Church at Harvard University Since 1970 and since 1974, he has been the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in The Memorial Church.

Professor Gomes holds degrees from Bates College (A.B., 1965), and from the Harvard Divinity School (S.T.B., 1968); along with 30 honorary degrees. And, in 2001, Harvard University presented him with The Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Award. He is an Honorary Fellow of The University of Cambridge, England, where The Gomes Lectureship is established in his name.

Named Clergy of the Year in 1998 by Religion in American Life, Professor Gomes participated in the presidential inaugurations of Ronald Reagan and of George Herbert Walker Bush. His New York Times and national best-selling books, *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*, (1996); and *Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living* (1998), were published by William Morrow and Company, Inc.

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The Good Life: Truths That Last in Times of Need was published in 2002 by Harper San Francisco, which also published *Strength for the Journey: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living* in spring 2003. In 2005, *The Backward Glance and the Forward Look* was published by WordTech. He has also published 10 volumes of sermons as well as numerous articles and papers.

Profiled by Robert Boynton in *The New Yorker*, and interviewed by Morley Safer on *60 Minutes*, The Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes was included in the summer 1999 premiere issue of *Talk* magazine as part of its feature article, "The Best Talkers in America: Fifty Big Mouths We Hope Will Never Shut Up."

Ladies and gentlemen of the class of 2006; parents, faculty, staff, and friends -- It is my distinct pleasure and honor to present to you, the Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes.

Honorary Degree

To Peter J. Gomes

Behind a podium, from the pages of a book or article, and from your church pulpit, you are a powerful, transformative force for good. With insight and scholarship, you light the way to reason and enlightenment by translating the lessons of scripture into the lives we live. To honor your work as a spiritual leader and educator, the Board of Trustees of Lasell College confers upon you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.