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### **For Immediate Release**

## **Rev. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ, and Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI to Receive Honorary Doctorates from Chicago's Catholic Theological Union**

May 25, 2022 (Chicago) – Catholic Theological Union's 54<sup>th</sup> annual commencement ceremony will take place May 26, 2022 at 3:00 pm Central Time, and will celebrate the accomplishments of graduates representing twenty countries. Fifty-two graduates will receive certificates or Master level degrees in the areas of Biblical Ministry; Hispanic Theology and Ministry; Intercultural Studies and Ministry; Justice Ministry; Liturgical Ministry; Spiritual Ministry; Pastoral Studies; Ministry; and Theology. Twenty-one will receive a Master of Divinity degree and seven will receive a Doctor of Ministry degree. The ceremony livestream can be accessed on the CTU homepage at [ctu.edu](http://ctu.edu). CTU is also hosting a Watch Party of the ceremony at the James and Catherine Denny Center (5416 S. Cornell Avenue) with the commencement reception to follow.

Catholic Theological Union (CTU) will present honorary doctorates to Rev. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ, and Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI. Orobator will receive a Doctorate in Theology, *honoris causa*; Maya will receive a Doctorate in Ministry, *honoris causa*. Honorary degrees are conferred annually by the CTU faculty and Board of Trustees upon individuals whose contributions to the fields of scholarship and service reflect the values to which CTU is committed.

Orobator has served as President of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar and as Chancellor of the Faculty of Theology of Jesuits in Africa and Madagascar since 2017. He is the Founder and Director of The African Synodality Initiative. He has served on the Board of Directors of Georgetown University since 2018 and was elected Vice Chair in 2021. Orobator is Chancellor of Arrupe Jesuit University in Harare, Zimbabwe, and has served as consultant to the Lambeth Palace Advisory Team on Peace and Reconciliation in South Sudan since 2019.

Orobator holds undergraduate degrees in Philosophy and Theology from the *Institut Saint Pierre Canisius*, Kinshasa, DRC and Hekima College at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Nairobi, Kenya, respectively. He received his MA from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, an MBA from Georgetown University, and a doctorate in Theology and Religious Studies from the University of Leeds. He has received honorary doctorates in

Divinity and in Laws from Santa Clara University and Fairfield University, respectively. A systematic and contextual theologian of the first order, his authored books include *The Pope and the Pandemic: Lessons in Leadership in a Time of Crisis* (Orbis Books, 2021); *Religion and Faith in Africa* (Orbis Books, 2018), winner of the 2019 Catholic Press Association Book Award; and *Theology Brewed in an African Pot* (Orbis Books, 2008), an exceptional contribution to the development of an African inculturated theology. These, along with numerous edited works and articles, have been mainstays in theological bibliographies across continents.

Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI, is completing her ministry as Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio, Texas, of which she has been a member since 1994. Maya completed undergraduate studies in history at Yale, received her MA in systematic theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and her doctorate at *El Colegio de Mexico*. Maya served in the Presidency of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) from 2016 to 2019. She has served on the board of The Village at Incarnate Word, served as CHRISTUS-Muguerza Board Chair, and Fundación Adelaida Lafón Board Chair. She currently serves on the board of the Oblate School of Theology, the Universidad de Monterrey, and serves as Chair of the Asociación de Hermanas Latinoamericanas en Estados Unidos. Her extensive history of service to education includes time as Professor at the Instituto Pastoral at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Loyola Marymount University's Center for Pastoral Studies, and the ITESM in Torreón, Mexico. She was Principal of Instituto América in Chihuahua from 2003 to 2008 and of Colegio La Paz in Torreón from 2000 to 2003.

Maya has given keynote addresses on topics of religious commitment, communion, and intercultural relationship to numerous international organizations, most recently including the Union of International Superiors General (UISG), the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the Conference of Religious of Peru, the Conference of Religious of Mexico (CIRM), and the Conference of Religious of Latin America (CLAR). Her work has been featured in several publications on religious life and Hispanic ministry, and her most recent book, *Conversations at the Well: Emerging Religious Life in the 21st-Century Global World: Collaboration, Networking, and Intercultural Living*, was released in 2019.

### **About Catholic Theological Union**

Catholic Theological Union is a Roman Catholic graduate school of theology and ministry. Its mission is to prepare effective leaders for the Church, ready to witness to Christ's good news of justice, love, and peace. CTU's 4,500 vowed religious women and men and lay graduates are serving in 60 countries worldwide.

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