

**The Honorands of
the 2000 Commencement**

Bowdoin College

**Peter John Gomes
Doctor of Laws**

The Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes is widely regarded as one of the great preachers of our time. Born in Boston, he earned a bachelor's degree at Bates College in 1965 and a bachelor of Sacred Theology degree at Harvard University in 1968. He is an American Baptist minister ordained to the Christian Ministry by the First Baptist Church of Plymouth, Mass.

For 26 years the Reverend Gomes has been minister of Memorial Church and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard University, where he has also served as acting director of the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African-American History. He is the author of the best-selling books *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart* (1996) and *Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living*. He is also the author of *Proclamation Series Commentaries, Lent* (1985, 1995) and *History of Harvard Divinity School* (1992). Mr. Gomes is an outspoken critic of those who misuse the scriptures to reinforce prejudices by encouraging “. . . ordinarily good people to act on their fears rather than their virtues.”

The Reverend Gomes participated in the inaugurations of presidents Reagan and Bush. He has been awarded honorary degrees by New England College (1974), Waynesburg College (1978), Gordon College (1985), Knox College (1987), and the University of the South (1989). He delivered the Kenneth V. Santagata Lecture at Bowdoin College in 1998, the same year that Religion in American Life named him “Clergy of the Year.” Earlier this year he delivered the University Sermon before the University of Cambridge, England.