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Salve Regina College

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*at Salve Regina College*  
*Newport, R. I. . 847-6650*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1970

The conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and the superintendent of schools in Middletown, R.I., will receive honorary doctorates at the twentieth commencement of Salve Regina College, Monday, May 25.

Sister Mary Christopher, R.S.M., president of the women's college, will confer a Doctor of Music degree on Joseph Conte, Providence, and a Doctor of Education degree on Joseph H. Gaudet, Middletown, at the outdoor ceremonies, beginning at 1 p.m. on the Ochre Court Terrace. (In the event of poor weather, the ceremonies will take place in Building 1801, U.S. Naval Base, Newport.)

Mr. Conte, who has also served as concertmaster of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra for the past 21 years, was appointed conductor of the Youth Orchestra in 1955. Under his baton, the orchestra increased to more than 150 members and last year achieved national recognition for their performance in the American Airlines-sponsored Rhode Island Regional Concert.

In addition to his duties with the Philharmonic, Mr. Conte is orchestra director at St. Xavier Academy, band director at Providence College, and concertmaster of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony. He also conducts the Fine Arts Pops Orchestra, the Fine Arts Opera Theatre, and the Rhode Island Veterans Band. For the past 16 years, he has performed in the Van Koppenhagen Summer Concerts in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard.

Following World War II military service, during which he organized and conducted the Fort Devens Symphony and the 320<sup>th</sup> Army Band, Mr. Conte resumed his musical studies and earned his bachelor of music degree at Boston University. He then pursued specialized studies in violin and conducting under the guidance of Richard Burgin, former concertmaster and associate conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

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Mr. Gaudet has been superintendent of schools in Middletown, since 1957. A past president of the Rhode Island Association of School Superintendents, and chairman of the Newport County Superintendents, he was instrumental in regionalizing the county's six school districts. This regionalization has resulted in the development of the mental hygiene center at the Mother of Hope Residence, Portsmouth, and a proposal, now pending, for government sponsorship of a computer center at that location to serve the county's educational system.

During Mr. Gaudet's tenure as superintendent, the Space Science Educational Center was developed at Middletown's Middle School. The planetarium, a regional educational endeavor for both public and non-public schools throughout the County, has won national attention for its creative use of federal funds for education.

A native of Arlington, Mass., who was graduated from Holy Name School, Providence, Mr. Gaudet earned his bachelor of science degree at the University of Dayton, Ohio, and his master of educational administration degree at Boston University. He continued his studies at the Harvard Graduate School of Education where he received his Certificate of Advanced Studies.

A former teacher in the Johnston, R.I., and Arlington, Mass., school systems, he was assistant principal and director of adult education in Arlington, and superintendent of schools in Hopkinton, R.I., prior to his Middletown appointment.

Mr. Gaudet is a member of the board of directors, New England School Development Council, and a member of the Aquidneck Law Enforcement Commission.