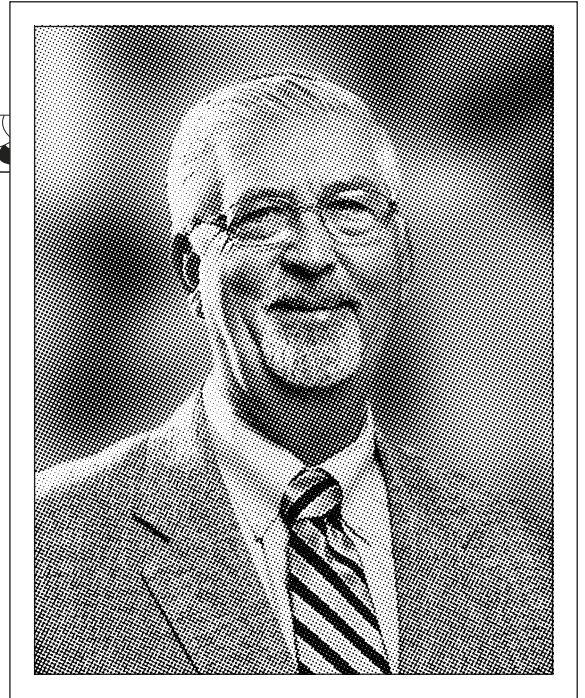




2007

Thomas R. Plough, Ph.D.



Thomas Plough earned salutatorian honors at St. Francis High School in 1959, as had his mother, Kathleen (Boehnlein), in 1936. Tom was an altar server and a member in the Sodality of Our Lady. He played Gladiator football and was a member of the 1958 and 1959 District basketball championship teams.

Tom earned his bachelor, master and doctoral degrees from Michigan State University. In 1966, Thomas Plough became Dean of Students at Alma College.

Dean Plough returned to his alma mater, St. Francis, in 1969 to deliver the commencement address. He credited the Dominican Sisters for combining faith and reason in giving students a strong foundation in work ethic and building character.

Dr. Plough served as professor of sociology, provost, and executive vice-president at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York from 1972 to 1995. He was President of North Dakota State University for three years. Dr. Plough was President of Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts from 1998 until his retirement in 2007. He then accepted the role of President Emeritus.

At Assumption College, he promoted Catholic intellectual traditions and echoed the college's educational outcomes of competence, character, and compassion. Throughout his forty-four years in higher education, he enriched the lives of generations of college students by encouraging educators to energize their students' imaginations and exploration of ideas. He continued to teach during his presidency. Students said they would remember him by the way he lived and the example he set.

At his inauguration at Assumption College, Tom proudly presented his mother and father with his first two President's medals. At his retirement, he honored the mother of his four sons and wife of 43 years by saying, "My career could not have unfolded without Monty as my partner."

Dr. Thomas Plough's leadership style of integrity, consistency, civility, and trustworthiness was founded on his strong Catholic faith and values.

Throughout his career, Dr. Plough has been an extraordinary ambassador for Traverse City and its Catholic schools.