

INVOCATION

O Lord God, Father, Guide, and Guardian of us all, we ask Thee this day to send Thy Holy Spirit upon us, to grant us the virtues that our profession demands and that our times require. Grant us first and most of all WISDOM, so that we may ever see the whole of life and of learning, in its total comprehensive beauty, and not be blinded by a miopic attraction ^{pre-occupation} to one of its parts, or ^{with} ~~to~~ some particular problem of this hour, ^{passing} or swayed unduly by our inner, unspoken pride, prejudice, passion or pettiness. Grant us also PRUDENCE, so that we may choose the proper and fitting means to achieve our exalted purposes in education; keep us from confusing means and ends; help us

to realize that we can compromise on means, but never on our
our ultimate goals the pursuit of excellence in all we do.
Grant us, Lord, a deep sense of UNDERSTANDING and COMPASSION,
for our students, first of all, for without them our profession
would lack purpose and meaning; then grant us understanding
and compassion for our fellow workers on whatever level of educa-
tion, and from whatever institution. Help us see that only
understanding and compassion can keep us working together and
not at cross purposes. Grant us too, O Lord, some new infusion
of the ENTHUSIASM, IDEALISM, AND ENERGY that characterized our
youth, that we may not grow stodgy, pedestrian, uninspired and

uninspiring in our later years. You know, Lord, that we have ample reason to be tired and discouraged at times, but keep the inner purpose and dedication of our lives as educators, as those fortunate few entrusted with the minds and hearts of American youth, keep this ~~shin~~ goal shining and bright within us, and let it, at least once in a while, shine forth in our eyes, in our actions, and in our lives. Grant us lastly, O Lord, the kind of COURAGE that leads when leadership is most difficult and most needed. Grant us the courage to follow our convictions to the end of the road, not just to the first easy stop along the way. Grant us the courage to speak our. loudly

and clearly, unmistakably for all/^{in the nation}to hear, declaring what is wise, and just, and true, and good in our times and for our people, even when they do not want to hear what we have to say.

Lord, there are not many things that we ask of Thee: wisdom, prudence, understanding, compassion, enthusiasm, idealism, energy and courage. We do believe that they are important virtues for all of us though, perhaps spelling out by their presence or absence in our lives, whether we are faithful or unfaithful servants, good or poor educators. While we pray for these virtues, Lord, grant that we may ever cherish them and work with them until the day is ended and night falls upon our lives. Then, in Thy mercy

grant us for our labors and by Thy grace, a place of refreshment
Blessed
light, and peace at last: the/Vision of Thyself, through Christ
Our Lord, Amen
