

(Invocation delivered by the Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., President, University of Notre Dame, at the Installation Luncheon for Dr. Frederick Seitz, President, Rockefeller University, New York, New York, October 8, 1968)

Lord God, Father of us all, we thank you for this new day and we ask your blessing upon this University and upon all of us who are gathered here to greet a new President and to pay tribute to his predecessor. We thank you for the great blessing of these past years that was Dr. Bronk who, together with so many distinguished associates, faculty, students, Board, and benefactors, too, made of this institution in years past a University quite unique in all the world for its intellectual quest on the furthestmost frontiers of advancing knowledge -- for the good of mankind everywhere -- which is a good Rockefeller motto and one worthy of true service to you, Our Lord.

We pray today especially for your blessings upon Dr. Frederick Seitz that, through him and his vital leadership, this University may continue to grow and to prosper. Grant him the fullness of the virtues he will need in the days ahead: The wisdom to know the difference between what is important and what is irrelevant in the life of this University; the patience to listen and the courage to act, the humility to know what even he cannot do -- and the list is long for every university president -- the grace to make of this University an ever more human and humane community wherein everyone, high and low, shares the ideals of this place and partakes of the real joy of discovery and intellectual accomplishment. Wisdom, patience, courage, humility, grace -- may all of these be his in abundance, but, above all, Lord, grant him

the great gifts that redeem the university and our times today,
the gifts of love and laughter: for the old have too often
forgotten how to love and the young how to laugh. If the world
is too cold and too serious today, may this new leader create
here a fellowship of young and old who can lighten the burdens
of the day by love and brighten the day itself by laughter,
for we are in your hands, O Lord, and without your help we do
all too little, but we do share your love and are at peace in
your joy. Amen.