

(Invocation delivered by the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., President, University of Notre Dame, at the Inauguration of Dr. William A. Hickey as President of Saint Mary's College, September 7, 1986)

Dear Lord, we have only a few requests today, but they are all important. We pray for Saint Mary's College which has served your Kingdom for almost a century and a half. We pray especially for its new President, Dr. William Hickey, who today is formally inaugurated. What do we pray for him. Again, only a few special blessings: that he be wise for wisdom is what all educational institutions aspire to achieve in its graduates, not just knowledge, but wisdom which transcends knowledge. May Saint Mary's President be wise. Then courage. No educational institution is easy to lead for there are the great crises, the easy way to go, and then the right way, often the difficult way, the way demanding courage. May he be courageous though there are many other easier solutions and no kudos for being courageous when it means to run against the pack seeking easy and uncourageous solutions. What more do we pray for? That he preserve his sense of humor, because a hundred years from now the great crises will seem ludicrous. May they seem ludicrous today. Also, may he have great faith in You, Your Mother, the tradition that has inspired this College for so many years, the faith that none of us is so important as the overarching Providence, the bounty of Our Lady, that has kept this place growing, maturing, and persevering for so many years. Dear Lord, our new President is a key actor in all of this for some years to come. Stay with him, guide him, strengthen him, and give him the great grace to see this hallowed place continue to grace Your Kingdom. Amen