BACCALAUREATE PRAYER, May 29, 1975

0 God of mercies, faithful to our mothers and fathers of old, we turn to you this hour, full of thanksgiving and vital hopes, yet touched by lingering uncertainties and fears.

We praise you, 0 God, for these four years, for the friends we have made for the knowledge we have come to call our own, for the growth In the maturity and wisdom with which you have blessed us. In the same voice, we call to you to heal the wounds of friendships that are no more, to show us surer ways to unite what we have learned with who we are, to give us a deeper wisdom and a keener vision of our own destinies and responsibilities.

Help us, 0 God, to cherish these years, with gratitude for all those satisfactions and struggles which have brought us closer to your righteousness and your truth. But help us even more, we are bold to say, to go forth from this place to new adventures, new struggles for righteousness and truth, new commitments to serve one another and all those in need.

As one day, 0 God, we stood by the lake and dreamed a hundred dreams about whom we might be if we really tried, as one day we carried that dinner tray to join our friends, wondering whether anyone would ever grow up, -- so now, 0 God, this day of thanksgiving and hopes, we ask for your blessings on these frail lives of ours, resolutely thirsting for your Grace and your Spirit, so we might be the persons, the fully human persons, you want us to be, now and in the years to come. Amen.

COMMENCEMENT PRAYER, May 30, 1975

0 God of freedom and grace, hear us, we pray, as we pause here this hour, along these many ways.

Hear us 0 God, as we give thanks for this institution as it enters its hundredth year, as we recall its frailties and its failures, no less than its excellence and its promise, as we think of the many who have gone before who have struggled, and who have served so well. Bless this College 0 God, and transform it, according to your will.

We especially thank you for those who have been closes to us here, who have taught us so deeply and befriended us so faithfully. Help us to show forth the fruits of their confidence and their trust.

Hear us, 0 God, as we look now toward our own futures, as we petition you for good careers. Not the careers of this world, the war-making, oppressing the poor, hoarding the wealth, exploiting the earth, passively accepting it all, but careers born of your freedom and grace, the peace-making, redressing grievances, sharing our good, healing the earth, celebrating life, — good careers of righteous power and redeeming joy.

Hear us, too, 0 God, as we lift our eyes beyong this College and beyond our own lives, to this vast bicentennial land in which we live, this nation of uncertain destiny, so heavy laden with the guilt and fatigue of destruction abroad and deceit and despair at hone. Inspire us anew, 0 God, to dream and to live for a day when, in truth, across this land, we can lift every voice and sing, ringing with the harmonies of liberty, high as the list'nlng skies, loud as the rolling sea.

0 God of freedom and grace, Judge us and renew us all, we pray, now and in the years to come, wherever we may go, whatever we may do. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Now go forth in the way of God, sustained by the power of God, blessed by the love of God, this day and for evermore. Amen.

The Rev H Paul Santmire
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