PASTORAL PRAYER

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE - FME 1, 1972

WELLESLEY COLLEGE

The Rev. H. Paul Santmire
College Chaplain

Let: us pray.

0 merciful One, faith of our fathers and mothers, in whom we too would trust, we lift our frail voices to you this day in memory of times of joy and times of tribulation, and in hope of new beginnings.

We praise your goodnesses to us in these four years. We bless you for the renewal of the earth which you have worked around us so abundantly every Spring. We thank you especially for that glimpse of renewal of our own lives and of the whole world, which you gave us to see as we walked one day in solitude. We bless you, too, for those times of academic authenticity which have been ours, for the satisfaction of a paper well-done, for the relief of an unhappy requirement honestly met, for the exhilaration of late hour discussions of Daniel Kerrigan and Kate Millet. We bless you above all for the friends we have made, here and elsewhere, young and old, male and female. For those moments of fulfilment and for all your goodnesses to us, we praise your name.

We petition you now, God of our trust, to hear our inmost cries for justice and peace for all peoples. For four years, 0 God, Vietnam has been our daily bread. For four years, 0 God, our hopes for an end to racism and sexism and ecological madness have been shattered again and again. So as we look to this day, 0 God, for new beginnings for ourselves, we petition you anew for justice and peace around this globe and in our land.

And we call upon your Grace to sustain us and enliven us as we enter into new arenas of service. However removed our endeavors may seem to be from the great social and political struggles of our day, 0 God, instill in us ever and again the vision of ourselves as participants in those struggles, and lift us with your power to be agents of your righteousness, wherever weemay be. Especially do we call upon your Grace for us as , each in her own way, each in his own way, we together seek a fully liberated sisterhood and a fully liberated brotherhood. Fashion us, 0 God, to be ministers of your liberating Grace, in every way, in every time,

0 merciful One, faith of our fathers and mothers, in whom we too would trust, forsake us not, in times of joy or in times of tribulation, as we go forth from this place, trusting you.

Hear us, 0 God, as we say in one voice:

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME, THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS

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BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL-, FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOR EVER AND EVER- AWN-