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Invocation

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Invocation

Father Joseph Kozar, S.M., Assistant Rector

Loving God, we gather here today to promote global consciousness and awareness as it is expressed on this campus and beyond. We draw on the expertise of alumni, faculty, staff, students and community leaders to join in the critical endeavor of creating an inclusive community. May this continuing symposium help us to function effectively as a catalyst for change and foster a sense of well being and communion on our campus.

Believing in the power of direct connection, may our conversations on topics of race, gender, privilege, human rights, and wealth and poverty held across different organizations and disciplines enable all of us to speak the truth of our individual experience in a way that fosters solidarity. In doing so may we build bridges across divides and form an inclusive community that acts as a crucible for change in wider society. Give us the courage to suggest what practically can be done to be a multitalented and multicultural community.

Gracious God of all of us, we give you thanks for the differences you have created among us—each with gifts to offer to the campus community. Let us see the relevance and importance of our differing points of view and cultural perspectives to foster the type of communal awareness that embraces difference.

Let the new understanding which emerges from the shared experience in the Cameroon immersion be a starting point for a recognition of the interconnectedness of community life and culture even across continental divides. May this awareness, along with

reflection on the experiences of those who lived in China and South America, expand campus interest in international affairs and deepen and invigorate campus life. Let the stories people tell in this symposium help us find commonality in human experience and identify those things which united rather than divide us.

Give our campus community the wisdom and the leadership that is needed for true dialogue on this campus. Holy Creator, You have given us many ways to receive your messages and love your creation better. Strengthen our courage so that we accept the challenges you present to us. May the *Humanities Symposium Global Voices on the University of Dayton* lift up developing partnerships and strengthen UD's inclusive community. Bless us as we journey on to new projects and as we embrace ever widening horizons. Empower us to accept President Spina's challenge to become "the university for the common good," keep us ready to learn of new and challenging ways to honor our diversity and become partners in mission at the University of Dayton and in the greater Dayton community. We ask this in your Name. AMEN.