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Groundbreaking Ceremony Invocation

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Invocation: Groundbreaking Ceremonies, Governors State University
June 12, 1971, Park Forest South, Illinois

Our Father, "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every undertaking under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant; a time to tear down, and a time to build." (Eccles. 3: 1-3.) We are digging into the earth this morning to plant a seedling, to lay a foundation. The same effort that makes room for the plant, that provides a hole for the foundation, uproots an old plant, sets aside a previous standing place. Oh, God, You who have appointed for men the tasks to busy themselves about, You see us today busy not so much with laying the foundation for a building, but with uprooting the old, withered plant of a previous educational model and planting the seedling of a fresh, new type of educational undertaking.

And so, through us and in us you fulfill yourself in many ways lest one good custom should corrupt the world.

But Father, it is with mixed emotions and a vision somewhat clouded that we share your work of creation and re-creation. For, we are both confident and hesitant as we uproot and plant something new. Help us to see more and more clearly what is appropriate to our times and to muster the energy and courage to fulfill your will in turning insight and vision into reality.

"You have made everything appropriate to its time, and have put the timeless into their hearts, so often without men's discovering, from beginning to end, the work which you do." (Eccles. 3: 11.) We believe that our work here today is Your work. Help us to relate it ever more fully and ever more consciously to the timeless values and relationships which you have implanted in us. Bless Governors State University, its students, its faculty, its administrators, and its friends and benefactors.

Amen.