

## In Gratitude, We Pray

God of joy and hope,  
We thank you for this time of graduation.  
Your spirit of wisdom has empowered our hard work and discipline in such a way that our hunger for learning has been nourished with knowledge, discovery, creativity, and determination.  
As we prepare to leave this school, let us walk in prayerful gratitude for the many blessings that have made this moment real and filled with great potential.

In gratitude, we pray for our families and the many who have sacrificed and worked to see us to this hopeful moment.  
In gratitude, we pray for the teachers and staff who have challenged, cared, and crafted us along this academic journey.  
In gratitude, we pray for fellow students who have taught us more about friendship, collaboration, and sharing.

God, even as we have faced challenges and accomplished much, we understand that our lives move into a new chapter where there will be more challenges to face and more will be demanded of us in order to accomplish good things. May your grace cover our anxieties and fears so that we may stay encouraged about the future.

Give us patience and hope to energize our search for work that is just and makes proper use of our gifts.  
Give us courage to face the challenges of carving out a place in society where we might live in peace, service, and gratitude.  
Give us strength to resist the temptations of greed, laziness, pride, and envy as we strive to do and be our best.

May your spirit guide us as we unfold the next chapters of our lives. Help us to enliven hope in the world and bring good things to Your Kingdom. And, may this celebration be a reflection of the blessings that we find in knowing and loving you. For this is the day that You have made.  
We are glad and rejoice in it!

- *Author Unknown*

## **This is what we are about**

This is what we are about.  
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted,  
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation  
in realizing that. This enables us to do something,  
and to do it very well. It may be incomplete,  
but it is a beginning, a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference  
between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own.

Amen.

Oscar Romero

## **Trust in God**

Often your tasks will be many,  
And more than you think you can do...  
Often the road will be rugged  
And the hills insurmountable, too...  
But always remember, the hills ahead  
Are never as steep as they seem,  
And with Faith in your heart start upward  
And climb 'til you reach your dream,  
For nothing in life that is worthy  
Is ever too hard to achieve  
If you have the courage to try it  
And you have the Faith to believe...  
For Faith is a force that is greater  
Than knowledge or power or skill  
And many defeats turn to triumph  
If you trust in God's wisdom and will...  
For Faith is a mover of mountains,  
There's nothing that God cannot do,  
So start out today with Faith in your heart  
And "climb 'til your dream comes true"!