

**Prayer for the Beginning of the Academic Year
Invocation for the Fall Faculty Conference, Gonzaga University
August 29, 2013**

Lord of all creation, we thank you for the beauty of the world in which you have placed us; not only for the pined beauty of nature, but for the beauty of human achievement; the trades and work that meet our needs, and the art and knowledge that nourish our minds and souls.

Father of lights, source of all good, for the blessings you send us, we pray that we will respond with gratefulness; Spirit of grace, giver of unexpected gifts of peace and joy, we ask forgiveness for our failures and compromises; divine Mediator, in whom broken things are made new, we ask courage to seek reconciliation with those we have wronged or harmed.

Spirit of wisdom, breathe into us humility of heart and fortitude of mind, as we seek the truth through disciplines of knowledge; guide us with good judgment as we communicate truth to students in classroom, lab, office, and hallway; inspire us with prudent devotion to the care of souls, as we promote the intellectual and spiritual formation of our students. For our deliberations and conversations today, we ask your blessing of wisdom to prepare us for the daily work of the semester and year ahead.

Surrounded by the great cloud of those who gone before us, witnessing to the truth and serving the work of formation and learning at Gonzaga, we pray that you will give us strength to honor their sacrifice with renewed commitment to serve faithfully the mission and ministry of Gonzaga University.

In the name of Jesus, the Life and Light, we pray,
AMEN.

—David H. Calhoun