



## **Most Reverend Raymond J. Boland**

**Bishop Emeritus**

**Diocese Kansas City ~ St. Joseph**

### **The Catholic Church in the 21st Century Finding Hope For Its Future in the Wisdom of Its Past**

Invocation of the

Most Reverend Raymond J. Boland, D.D. Bishop of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph

May 31, 2003

O Loving tender God of  
exasperating mystery  
it is our daily destiny  
to stand before you  
Moses like  
seeking you in that  
burning bush  
which burns without consuming.

O Loving tender God of  
exasperating clarity  
it is our daily privilege  
to find you in  
Mary's Son  
surrounded by your babbling disciples  
on the road to Jerusalem  
where the cross of death  
is utterly transformed  
by an eternal resurrection.

O Loving tender God of  
exasperating goodness  
it is our daily task  
to inherit your  
Spirit  
in personal Pentecost  
and to be overwhelmed beyond the measure  
of our powers  
so that you may be known to many  
beginning with ourselves.

O Loving tender God of  
exasperating beauty  
it is good for us to be here today  
to travel down the centuries  
filled with struggles  
intermingled  
with

infidelities, indifference, insolence  
constantly transfigured  
once again  
and yet again  
by  
moments of blinding and dazzling recognition.

O Loving tender God of  
exasperating mercy  
forgive us for our efforts  
to mold you into our image and likeness  
to reduce you to a lifeless icon frozen in time  
or to advocate the conviction that our world  
would be the new Eden if only  
God would be like us.

O Loving tender God of  
exasperating patience  
walk with us this day  
open our minds and our hearts  
so that your Spirit may  
bless us with the truth  
and at the end  
of the day  
may we rediscover you  
in the breaking of the Bread.  
Amen