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Bishop Emeritus
Diocese Kansas City ~ St. Joseph

The Central City School Fund
Invocation for Annual *Back To Recess* Auction and Dinner
April 30, 2004

God, our Father,
In the creation of humankind you conferred
upon all men and women a reflection
of your own dignity
and in your providence
you expected
us to take care of our less fortunate
brothers and sisters
with a love as generous as your own.

We have gathered here
this evening
to thank you for the many gifts and privileges
with which you have endowed us
and to share with others as you have shared with us.

We are grateful
for the opportunity you have given us
to be the giving hands
of your savior Son
who gave
until there was nothing left to give.

It is good to give food
to the poor
but within hours they will be hungry again.
It is good to give clothing
to the ill clad
but within months even the finest will turn to rags.

But best of all is to provide
an education
which lasts for a lifetime --
It opens the mind and heart to the wonders of creation,
It nurtures the growth of God's gifts,
It makes the impossible possible,
It inspires our souls with the power of the spirit
and it gives hope

enabling those who are educated
and those who follow them
to break the terrible cycle of poverty
and to live in the presence of God
within the full flowering of the human potential
of a mind sparked by divine love.

Let our meal this evening
be a reminder of Christ's
last meal with his disciples
Bless our food
May it sustain our bodies
As we pledge ourselves anew
To push back the frontiers of ignorance
so that God's children
may really know
what it means to be God's children.

As always,
we make this prayer through Christ
Our savior and our God.

Amen