

Heavenly Father,

In a world that is so often divided and selfish, we thank you for the opportunity to gather joyfully with others in the cause of charity and justice. We ask your protection and support upon our participants and upon our noble endeavor. We beseech your grace that many may wake up and generously give toward the needs of our struggling brothers and sisters. We pray that a real and infectious concern for the poor will motivate volunteers to work in the alleviation of suffering and to preserve human dignity. Organizations like Catholic Charities, Community Crisis and United Communities Against Poverty are expressions of our hope for a more united, peaceful and caring society. May our families celebrate today the love of neighbor and pass on these shared values to the generations to come. Trusting in your mercy and providence, do not allow our sacrifices to be in vain but rather insure that what we do today and every day will make a positive difference as we move toward a more just and compassionate society.

We ask this in the name of the Lord. Amen.