

Convocation, April 14, 2004
Prayer on behalf of Maja Pesyna

As a University community, we have been saddened this week by the news that Seaver College freshman Maja Pesyna was killed in an accident on Saturday evening. On Friday, at 3:00 pm, there will be a memorial service for Maja in Stauffer chapel. You are all invited to attend. Also, the funeral service for Maja will be held at the Sunkist Community Church in Anaheim on Saturday at 1:00 pm. If you would like more details regarding that service you can contact the Dean of Students Office.

When we have tragedies such as this happen in our community we all experience the loss, especially the death of someone so young and full of life and promise. We are confronted with the reality that life is fragile. For those of you who knew her well or who had class with her or for whom this tragic death brings with it painful memories of your own, we want you to know that there are resources on our campus available to assist you in the grieving process. Please feel free to contact the RA, SA or SLA in your hall, the counseling center, campus ministry or the chaplain's office.

At this time we want to go before God in prayer on behalf of Maja's family and those who mourn her death. Please join me.

Merciful and loving father, sustainer and redeemer of our lives, God of all comfort and love, we beseech you on behalf of the family of Maja Pesyna and all who weep this day because of the loss of a daughter, a student, a friend. We trust in your promise, O God, to be with us, to walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death, to comfort us and to sustain us in our grief. Draw near to us today. Especially give strength to Maja's family as they prepare for the memorial services, as they welcome family members from as far away as Japan, as they cope with the loss of their daughter.

We pray for our University community, especially for those who knew Maja and who will miss her. Draw near to us today. Surround all who grieve with your love through the words, the loving embraces, the presence of others who minister at their side. Speak your words of love and comfort to their hearts through us, O God. May we be instruments of your comfort and peace.

We thank you God for Maja's young life. We are grateful that she was part of our community and that she developed friendships here, that she touched the lives of her professors, and that she was a blessing to those who knew her. We treasure her memory and lift her up before you and ask that you receive her as your child in your mercy.

Give us strength for the days to come. Bless the memorial service on Friday that it may celebrate Maja's life and give glory to you. We seek your face, O God, we need your loving kindness and your comfort, we desire your presence among us. Draw near to us today.

We pray in the name of your son, Jesus, who died that we might live.

D'Esta Love
University Chaplain