

**Faculty Appreciation Dinner**  
**April, 2005**  
**D'Esta Love**

Loving and gracious Father in heaven, creator and sustainer of all life, we come in thanksgiving for this evening and promise it holds for giving honor to our co-workers and colleagues. We are grateful that you created us in your image and blessed us with the dignity that work provides. We are grateful that you called us to partner with you in your work in the world. Thus it is that we have been called to be your people in the world and in particular called to Pepperdine University. As we give you thanks we also ask a blessing on the work we do in your name.

We are grateful for our colleagues that we recognize and honor tonight. The witness of their lives among us, the companionship they have provided, and for the joy in mutual work. Bless their lives, and us as we honor them.

We pause in our celebrations tonight to acknowledge the life and death of Pope John Paul II and to ask a blessing on all who mourn his passing.

We also ask a blessing on the events of our evening and on this meal we will share. We receive it with gratitude as a gift from your hand. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, Amen.