

Blessing for parents and students
Saying Goodbye
January 4, 2005

Acknowledgement and Congratulations

We want to acknowledge you today and congratulate you. As **parents** you have arrived with your son or daughter at a transition point. You stand together at a changing place. Certainly, for our **students** present in this chapel this is a major moment in your life and we want to honor and bless you today.

So this is a significant moment – it could be described as a letting go and a stepping out. But it is not a journey any of you make alone, nor is it a leaving behind of all that we have learned from your parents and it is not a turning over of responsibilities to others.

This is a transition in a journey that continues. It marks the fulfillment of mutual goals and dreams, years of preparation, and faith in God and one another. It is a moment filled with hope and promise and joy and expectation. It also marks the beginning of new possibilities for each of you standing here and for your continuing relationship that is still tightly bound together by love and warmed by precious memories. And there are new memories to create and new discoveries to make and new expressions of love to be shared and enjoyed together.

Giving Honor: Parents

So we honor your dedication and your commitment to your children. We honor your devotion to God and the prayers and the planning and the sacrifices that have brought you to this moment. We receive the gift of your son or daughter into our community as a sacred trust. Thank you for sharing them with us and we look forward to knowing them and receiving the gifts they bring to share with us, particularly the gift of themselves.

Students

We honor you for your hard work and for your hopes and dreams that brought you to Pepperdine. We welcome you and join with your parents in offering you our support and help. We look forward to getting to know you and to learning with and from you and we wish you well as you embark on this most significant part of your life's journey.

Sharing Blessing

Please stand

May God bless and honor your decisions and your sacrifices of love. May he fill your hearts with courage and with peace as well as joy and hope. We ask his richest blessings upon you as you say goodbye, as you journey home or as you begin the task of making friends and attending classes and discovering what lies in store for you here.

Prayer

Most gracious and loving father – we beseech you as a father who sent your son into the world – to bless these families as they say goodbye and as they leave their children into our care and keeping and yours. May we honor the sacred trust they place in our hands. May they feel confident in decisions and the preparations they have made that have brought them to this hour. Draw near to them and give them a sense of peace as they return to their homes. Bless them with safety and with hearts full of blessed memories to fill the empty spaces.

We pray for the sons and daughters who now begin a journey of discernment and discovery and learning. Bless them with peace and thankfulness as they say goodbye to their parents. Fill their hearts with hope and expectation for all that lies ahead and give them courage as they turn to begin a new chapter. Stay with them. Give them good friends for their journey, bless them with good health, grant them opportunities to grow and to flourish and give them thankful hearts for all that their parents have done to help them arrive at this place.

Help us, O God, to be good mentors to these new students that you have given us. We are grateful that they have chosen Pepperdine and we are blessed by their trust in us. We offer this prayer in gratitude for the blessings of life, of family, of journey, and of the future. In Jesus name, Amen

**D'Esta Love
University Chaplain**