

## Invocation

Almighty God, creator and sustainer of all life, without whose blessing and sufferance no human work can long prosper, we praise Thee for that which we have begun in this place and time.

We thank Thee for the sense of justice which Thou hast implanted within mankind and for the readiness of men and communities to uphold and preserve a just order.

We thank Thee for the dedication and vision of leaders in this community which have led to this new undertaking, for teachers and students committed to justice and human dignity, and for the noble heritage upon which this new venture is built.

We pray, O God, for Thy guidance and direction in all our labors. May freedom under the law continue to flourish among us. May the men and women who go forth from this place to their responsibilities be continually aware that Thou art a God of justice who dost see to the right, maintaining Thy Rule and overthrowing all powers in opposition to it.

Help us, O God, to be faithful to the whole legal tradition which lies behind our understanding of law and justice in our day; to be ready to deal with this tradition with critical insight and boldness; and to be courageous in the battle for that proper balance between freedom and order, apart from which we can not live and flourish in accordance with Thy Will.

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build  
it labor in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watch-  
man stays awake in vain.

Amen.



*Delivered by Dean Walter Harrelson of the University of Chicago Divinity School at the groundbreaking for the new Law School Building.*