

Prayers for the Beginning of the Academic Year

Sheila Carney, RSM

1.

God of all our days, of beginnings and endings, we gather this morning on the brink of a new academic year. While we begin anew with fresh energy and renewed hope, we don't know what lies ahead as this year unfolds. What we do know is that You are ahead of us, and behind us, and all around us; and so we are united with confidence that Your loving care continues to surround us.

As we strive to embody the mission of our university, we are grateful for the support, the example, and the encouragement of our co-workers. We celebrate this community and all the ways in which You make Yourself known in its midst. Amen.

2.

God, here we are again--faculty and students renewed and eager to begin a new academic year. And here we are still--staff and administration who have worked through the summer to assure that all is ready for this new beginning. While we gather with fresh energy and renewed hope, we don't know what lies ahead as this year unfolds. What we do know is that You are ahead of us, and behind us, and all around us. We are united with confidence that Your loving care continues to surround us as this community once again takes up the challenge of its mission. Be with us as we strive to transform the words we have written into living examples of who and what we have said we will do and be. And let's all say: Amen.

3.

We gather today in the freshness of a new year. In the midst of the change that newness portends, we remember You, Our God, and Your unchanging fidelity to each of us and to this university. Be with us today as we gather to reflect on this ministry that You have entrusted to our care. Give us ears to hear Your call, give us a sense of common purpose, and give us energy and ingenuity for the work that is ours. In all that we do may our shared effort be to continue to build a university that reflects the mission and values we have espoused. We ask this in the name of Jesus who walked among us as teacher and friend. Amen.

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