Prayer for a Start-of-the-Year Cabinet Meeting
Graziano Marcheschi

Well, God, here we are: a [small/large] [college/university] in a [small/large] city, offering the chance of a lifetime to students young and not so much -- to athletes and scholars and everyone in between. Running on a shoestring and sometimes less, but making the ends meet . . . and talking nice to one another. We keep moving forward because we work . . . hard . . . at everything we do, even when no one is watching.

You've pulled us together as a team with various gifts and different passions, but one commitment: to make this [college/ university] work so we can ignite the flame of learning and transform while we inform our students, making this a home for technology and art, business and education, where students encounter new experiences, new friends, new opportunities, and the joy of service.
There are many of us trying to make this work, Lord-from enrollment to public safety, from the library to the nursing labs, from the business school to the school of education. We do what needs to be done so this can be a place of hope … of dreaming big and BIGGER dreams, and of saying "no" to all small plans in the spirit of this city of big shoulders.

Watch over us as we begin this year. Protect us from dangers seen and unseen. Enlighten us with Your Spirit of Wisdom so our decisions will lead to successful and happy students, and faculty and staff who know the satisfaction of making a difference.

This is a time of beginning, a pregnant time so full of promise. Bring us to term over the next nine months, O God, and fill us with awareness that what we carry within is a sacred trust that's nourished by Your unfailing love.

In confidence and hope, we pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Graziano Marcheschi is executive director, Office of University Mission and Ministry, at Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL.