

**CARDINAL ADAM MAIDA
INVOCATION
ECONOMIC CLUB OF DETROIT
FEBRUARY 8, 2005**

Lord our God, giver of breath and bread,
Father of the human family,
as we gather this day in Detroit,
with our nation's president, George W. Bush,
we ask your blessing upon him and upon us all.

We praise and thank you, Lord,
for the freedom we enjoy in this great land,
and for the privilege of living in a democratic nation.
Help us always to remember that these blessings bring responsibilities
to work for the common good of all people.

In a special way, we lift up to you
those most dependent on government
for the protection and defense of their rights:
the unborn and the dying, the elderly and chronically ill,
those mentally and physically challenged,
migrants and the homeless,
and all those who would otherwise be forgotten on the margins of society.

We remember, Heavenly Father,
the sons and daughters of our nation currently in harm's way,
as they defend our freedom
and work for the spread of democracy throughout the world.

Show us the way to peace in our times,
By a deeper respect for the ethnic, racial, and religious diversity
of all members of our human family.

We thank you ahead of time, Lord,
for the food we are about to receive,
and for the words and wisdom our president will share with us.
May we listen with discerning minds and hearts,
ready to engage in a respectful, civil dialogue
regarding the best ways to ensure a stable and just society for all.

With your help, Lord, may we live our
Pledge of Allegiance and truly be,
"one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."
Amen.