

# Education for Ministry

Graduation  
Ely and Spirit of the Lakes

St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Tower, Minnesota  
June 21, 2009

Graduates  
Virginia McBride  
Pamela Webster

*Prayers from the Book of Occasional Services, except for the  
Blessing of Graduates which is adapted from the National  
Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry.*

## Blessing of Graduates

*Mentor:*

Before you were even formed, God knew you.  
While in your Mother's womb, God named you.  
At your birth, God's breath filled you with life.  
Today we celebrate what you have become  
at this moment in time. And so we pray,

*Continuing Students:*

God of our beginnings,  
We thank you for the gifts of these graduates;  
their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity,  
their open speech and encouraging words.  
Their contributions have blessed and challenged us,  
and we have become a richer  
and more diverse community because of them.  
As they step forward into the world that awaits,  
comfort their fears with the full knowledge  
of your divine presence.  
Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus  
as modern-day disciples in a world that needs their spirit.  
Guide their feet as they move through life,  
protecting them from the pitfalls of darkness  
while they help to lead future generations  
into the warmth and promise of your light.  
We ask this blessing upon each of them,  
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*People:*

**AMEN!**

## A Litany for the Mission of the Church

Holy God, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,

**Have mercy on us.**

Jesus the Christ, through whom the world is reconciled to the

Father,

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, whose glory fills the world and searches the depths of

God,

**Have mercy on us.**

Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,

**Have mercy on us.**

From blind hearts and petty spirits, that refuse to see the need of all humankind for your love,

**Savior, deliver us.**

From pride, self-sufficiency and the unwillingness to admit our own need of your compassion,

**Savior, deliver us.**

From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from lack of persistence and thoroughness,

**Savior, deliver us.**

From ignorance, apathy, and complacency that prevent us from spreading the Gospel,

**Savior, deliver us.**

O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue and dialect the wonderful works of God.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Touch our hearts, that we may discern the mission to which you call us.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Touch our feet, that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Touch our hands, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous and unresponsive places.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

*Canon Missioner:*

You raise up laborers for your harvest, Holy God, sending them out as sowers of your good news, workers of healing, and caretakers of new life: Bless Ginny and Pam in their work of ministry; equip them for service, enliven them with your joy, and help them remember and trust that it is you who will bring in the harvest; through Jesus Christ, the Savior of souls.

*People:*           **Amen.**

## A Prayer of Dedication

*Graduates:*

Christ Jesus, you go before and behind us, you are our light and our shield; guide our path, be our clear sight, lift us up in your Gospel joy, and bless the work we do in your name and honor, for you are our beloved, and our life made new.

*People:*           **Amen.**

*The Mentors present the Certificates to the Graduates.*

*Applause is appropriate. The Service continues with the Offertory.*