

**INVOCATION FOR THE CLASS OF 1963**  
**SEPTEMBER 14, 2013**  
**NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION**

Holy God,

In the silence of our memories, we recall those who have walked with us and are now no more. The teachers who served us so unselfishly, the parents and grandparents who invested all their dreams in us, the friends and classmates who went on before us too soon--sometimes before they had a chance to fulfill their own dreams. We recall husbands and wives who left an aching void in our hearts, and the children and grandchildren who slipped away.

We hear the echoes of laughter and joy, gossip and good times that filled the hallways of a school that came to embody for each of us a future handed on from the Greatest Generation. We reflect on the meanings of friendships formed in cafeteria and study hall, classrooms and stages, athletic arenas and fields and courts, music and chorus halls, shops and clubs. The worlds explored, the death of a president who symbolized a new generation--and the feelings of young love and broken hearts. We celebrate the achievements of discipline and whimsy, the sweetness of innocent years, the cars, the clothes, the fads and fancies, the desperate need to belong, embracing old values and questioning old ideas.

Above all, we come filled once more with wonder that we are in this place, complete for a few moments among those who gave our lives such meaning and grace. Fill this brief time with gratitude, and allow us to re-live for the thousandth time what it was that made our sojourn there in our dear old North Side High a continual thing of beauty. For all that has been we say, "Thanks." And for all that is to be, we say, "Yes."

Bless our food; bless our gathering.

Amen.

Steve Doan