Invocation and Grace

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Let us pray.

All-powerful God,
we are gathered this evening
from many places.
We ask your blessing
on this 4th of January,
the feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton,
our patroness.

As we give you thanks for all the HARDWARE of your creation,
keep us mindful
that the SOFTWARE of compassion and justice
must be our gifts to you in return.
May we always be SERVICE PROVIDERS
for those who go without food and shelter,
especially in the cold of winter.

Help us to remember, Lord, that we are WIRED
with your mercy,
and that we are WIRELESS without your love.
When we refresh our LAPTOPS,
we ask you, Lord, to REFRESH our hearts.

As we contemplate the KEYBOARD of your divine plan,
we ask you to BACKSPACE over our selfishness,
and to DELETE our competitiveness.
Help us to ESCAPE from our need to CONTROL others,
and to SHIFT any policy that does not meet the demands of charity.

Finally, Lord,
bless our food and drink this evening
and bless the new friendships we have forged at this Conference.

And now, at the start of a new millennium,
may your countless blessings
come to us at the speed of DSL,
for you alone are truly UBIQUITOUS —
one gracious God,
forever and ever.

Amen.