

**Invocation given by Rev. Anthony J. De Conciliis, C.S.C.
at the Annual Membership Luncheon of
Algiers Economic Development Foundation
held on Wednesday, July 11, 2007.**

Our God, we acknowledge that You empowered the earth with incredible riches. In turn, You empowered humankind with extraordinary creativity and capacity to labor on the earth for self preservation and the preservation of the common good.

We believe that we have a right to acquire wealth in a lawful and just way by our work. We know that we have an obligation to use the earth's wealth properly and insure a wider distribution of our community's wealth. This is your command and also creates a sane and healthy social order.

Our social order must include a generous spirit, one where selfishness is replaced by justice and charity. We realize that justice can remove the cause of social strife, if properly exercised, but, by itself, the practice of justice cannot unite the minds and hearts of all men and women. Charity is the key in this area. Charity draws us together in extraordinary ways, for love eradicates boundaries of class and position. We know that men and women will only unite for the common good when they are convinced that they are all members of one family, one creation, under the Creator of all.

We confess that our social order, especially our political and business community, must be one where the rich and powerful will never neglect their poorer brothers and sisters and always keep these interests foremost in their minds and hearts. In this spirit, we will be workers for the community without thoughts and feelings of envy or greed. We will appreciate the importance and dignity of labor in this creation we have so generously been given to use for the good of all.

We pray that the efforts of the Algiers Economic Development Community will bring us to an acknowledgment of justice and charity as we use the gifts that we have received from the Creator.