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## Meditation Prayer, delivered at the DeVos, O'Donovan, Kennedy Dinner Party on July 9, 2015

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Meditation Prayer-Dinner Party  
DeVos, O'Donovan, Kennedy  
July 9, 2015  
Arend D. Lubbers

We have come through a few weeks of momentous events. Decisions were made that please some and disappoint others. When the Supreme Court handed down its decision on marriage, I was reminded of a C.S. Lewis book I read several years ago. He described an encounter with students at Wheaton College where he came to briefly teach. The students were railing against homosexual students and thought they should be excluded from the college. Lewis did not challenge the belief they strongly held. He pointed out to them that Christianity is a religion with priorities, and the priority that trumped all others was love.

Long ago, St. Paul claimed the precedence of love when he wrote faith, hope, and love are prime virtues, but the greatest of them is love. Love can be pervasive and complex. The Scripture refers to the love that passeth understanding. That God so loved the world that Jesus came into the world demonstrating God's love and forgiveness. And through His message and sacrifice, showed us that redemption comes through them. As we contemplate love, let us pray.

Loving God, we are taught that you are love, and that we are made in your image. Help us then in a world where people ignore love in their decisions and relationships to make sure that it permeates our lives and shapes what we do. May we practice the most practical aspects of love by forgiving, showing reverence, understanding humility, and by being grateful. Tonight, we are grateful for being around this table with friends. Amen.