

## Benediction

55th Reunion Memorial Service

May 30, 2024

Douglas Warren Sears

Lord, thou hast read our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Red Book long before we wrote it.

Thou knowest better than ourselves that we are growing older, and some day will be old.

Keep us from the fatal habit of thinking that we must say something on every subject, and on every occasion.

Release us from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make us thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy.

With our vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all – but, Thou knowest, Lord, that we want a few friends in the end.

Keep our minds free from the recital of endless details ... give us wings to get to the point.

Seal our lips on aches and pains. They are increasing and the love of rehearing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

We dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains but help us endure them with patience.

We dare not ask for improved memory, but for growing humility and a lessening coxsureness when our memories seem to clash with the memories of others.

Teach us the glorious lesson that occasionally we may be mistaken.

Keep us reasonably sweet; we don't want to be saints ... but not one who is hard to live with ... for a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give us the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people and please give us the grace to tell them so.

Amen

Adapted from the *Works of St. Anonymous*