

Invocation
Keep Iowa Beautiful Dinner
March 25, 2013

O God, we are grateful for all of your gifts. Tonight we are particularly grateful for the leadership and presence of Don Lamberti and his life-partner, Charlene.

Don along with his wife who has joined with him from the earliest days of Casey's General Stores stands as a model for us Iowans in being dedicated to the development of Iowa's most precious resource and certainly at the heart of its beauty, Iowa's people.

Don has been blessed with strong moral convictions which he persuasively advocates in the best interests of our communities of caring for the vulnerable at all stages in their lives from womb to tomb. In this line, he supports initiatives which seek to rebuild individuals who have fallen victim to human frailty.

His longstanding passion and outreach to the poor blends beautifully with the leadership of the charismatic newly elected Pope Francis. Don enables Christian and religious education and formation which ingrain a proper and positive relationship with each person and God to the benefit of the total community.

On more than one occasion, Don has shared with me that God has been abundantly good to him and Charlene in material resources, so that they can respond to the great challenge of helping others. For this, O God, we are thankful for their wisdom and generosity as they reach out in responding to human need.

As we are inspired by this good example, may we in turn be dedicated to keeping Iowa beautiful – the beauty found in the strong moral character of its people, the beauty found in Iowa’s friendly and caring heartland communities, the beauty found in Iowa’s remarkably fertile land and all other handiwork of God’s creation we find here.

Heavenly creator, be abundant in your blessings in this Easter season to Don, Charlene and all of their loved ones. May they come to know joy and peace in their hearts. Following their example, make us conscious of the need to share our abundance with the suffering and poor.

Bless us this evening gathered in tribute to the Lambertis' in our conversation and good fellowship. Bless those who have grown the food we enjoy, those who prepared it and those who now serve it.

Buon Appetite!