

November 25, 2005
Mexican American Student Alliance
Kennesaw State University
"College Students Against Deceptive
Anti-Immigrant Propaganda"
Capitol Hill, Atlanta, Georgia

Thanksgiving after Thanksgiving

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Twenty-four hours after Thanksgiving Day, we are gathered in this place to let our voices be heard as one community. But we cannot really achieve this goal, unless we first pause to express our gratitude to our Creator for the many blessings that He/She has bestowed upon our people and land.

So join me in this sacred moment, as we lift up our hearts in a prayer of profound gratitude:

Leader: for the abundant life the Creator has given us and for those who, in gratitude, share that life with others, especially those who suffer the most

People: *¡Te damos gracias, Señor! (in unison)*

Leader: for the freedom to express our opinions in truth, love, and respect in order to create a better society

People: *¡Te damos gracias, Señor! (in unison)*

Leader: for the contributions that all immigrants have made to our lives, particularly the contributions of undocumented workers and peasants

People: *¡Te damos gracias, Señor! (in unison)*

Leader: for leaders and legislators who do everything in their power to make the right decisions as they listen to their

constituents with critical thinking, discernment, fairness, and compassion

People: *¡Te damos gracias, Señor! (in unison)*

Leader: for those who protect us from evil, defend the innocent, create and enforce just laws, and use their institutional power with integrity

People: *¡Te damos gracias, Señor! (in unison)*

Leader: for our families, friends, neighbors, colleagues, co-workers, classmates, and other sojourners

People: *¡Te damos gracias, Señor! (in unison)*

Leader: for the organizers and supporters of today's event and for those who hear and respond to the cries of those who are marginalized on both sides of the border and cannot speak for themselves

People: *¡Te damos gracias, Señor! (in unison)*

Leader: for the Latino community, a people that remembers, celebrates, dreams, and struggles

People: *¡Te damos gracias, Señor! (in unison)*

Leader: And for the United States of America, the place where we all live; a beautiful tapestry of rich races and cultures; a land where freedom, equality, and justice shine for all

People: *¡Te damos gracias, Señor! (in unison)*