Invocation Delivered at Denver’s State of the City Address
Denver International Airport
July 11, 2016

O God of many names and continuing presence in our lives. You have reached out to us in all of our human variety—our many faiths, cultures, languages, and beliefs—and we recognize you most fully when we care for your human family, especially those of our brothers and sisters who are vulnerable, who live on the margins, and who need our help. Bring our hearts and our minds peace. Help us act as you act. Black Lives Matter! Blue Lives Matter – This is not a contradiction but we need your help, your compassion to hear deeply each other’s hearts.

Your invitations to live in partnership with your plans for us come both quietly, in our moments of prayer and reflection, and also abruptly and unexpectedly, when the rush and complexity of city life surprises us with opportunities to respond with compassion. Our cities and neighborhoods are sacred places for these invitations where your children of all ages struggle, love, sacrifice, delight and suffer.

Help us to notice how you work among us, in all of these moments of human encounter, and accompany us as we respond to the needs of this Denver community. Fill our hearts with the desire to make our home here on your good world a “community of kinship” such that you might recognize it as truly your own home as well.

We ask these blessings confident of your love and care for us. AMEN

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.
July 2016