

Good evening! Thank you for that warm welcome and for your invitation to be here. It is a pleasure to welcome you tonight to Mississippi and to our capitol city. Governor Musgrove regrets that a prior commitment prohibits him from joining you tonight.

I did a little research and found that St. Peter Claver was a man committed to saving “millions of perishing souls.” I understand he dedicated himself to the service of slaves – a commitment that he undertook for 33 years. Your organization is to be commended for being founded on the principals of such an exemplary human being, for it is through service to our fellow man that we all grow.

I hope that you will find your meeting beneficial and that your stay here with us will be most enjoyable. Please take time to enjoy our food, our arts, our music, and, most of all, our hospitality. Again, welcome to Mississippi - It is indeed a pleasure to have you here.