

## **Tobin Center event prayer**

**08-23-19**

**Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in recent remarks to those who assist the mentally ill, said “ the purpose of our mission is: to identify the material and immaterial needs of the people and try to meet them as we can. Do you know what agape is? It is love of others, as our Lord preached. It is not proselytizing, it is love. Love for one’s neighbor, that leavening that serves the common good.” – (Pope Francis)**

**I know that so many of you live with and serve the community of the mentally ill with exactly this kind of love. For this reason, it is my honor to be with you today because you are the ones who put love, agapic love, into action! I am the one who humbled to be in your presence, and I assure you of my prayers because those of you who are a part of the caring community, whether as professionals, family members, or friends and community, are lights in an often dark world.**

**Reflecting on today, I felt that the Prayer attributed to St. Francis would be appropriate. Let us pray:**

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive,**

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**