

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, May 4, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Thomas A. Kuhn, Church of the Incarnation, Centerville, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

Father in heaven, we are amazed at the many blessings You have given to us as a people. You love us so much that we are moved to call ourselves "One Nation under God."

We know, however, that we are blessed so that we can be a reflection of Your love in this world. You made us a mighty Nation. May we always be gentle enough to lift up the fallen and ready always to protect those who are unable to defend themselves.

You made us a bountiful Nation. May we always share those blessings with the hungry, the homeless, those unable to care for themselves.

You gave all your children true freedom. May we always work to ensure that none of our brothers or sisters is enslaved by bigotry or prejudice.

We pray in a special way for those of your children who daily must face the terrors of war. Help those refugees of war that they may soon return to their homes in peace.

Much of what we are as a Nation has been entrusted to the Members of the People's House, the House of Representatives. Give them the vision and strength to work for the good of all people. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GREEN of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE PASSING OF HIS EMINENCE, JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I rise to honor an out-

standing American, one who I was especially pleased and honored to call a friend.

His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor's accomplishments as a priest, as a chaplain, as a humanitarian made him one of the most respected Americans of our time.

In my congressional district in New York, Cardinal O'Connor was always on hand for school graduations, for cornerstone dedications, for religious services with his message of hope. He was known for promoting racial and religious harmony and for advocating the best education possible for the children, regardless of race, religion or financial status.

We must not forget that Cardinal O'Connor welcomed AIDS patients into the Catholic hospitals of New York back at a time when other institutions of medicine were turning them away. He ministered to the sick, to the disabled, and was a great friend of the poor.

All Americans join in expressing condolences to the residents of the New York Archdiocese, to Cardinal O'Connor's family and friends, and to all who were touched by this remarkable individual.

THE PASSING OF JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I too rise with a heavy heart this morning to express my profound sorrow at the passing of John Cardinal O'Connor.

As the leader of the largest archdiocese in the Nation, Cardinal O'Connor was an active participant in the debate about the role of the church and the role of society in helping those who could not help themselves.

The Cardinal embodied the biblical passage of the Good Samaritan. In both his words and actions, Cardinal O'Connor demonstrated his devotion to the teachings of Christ and the spirit and principles of that passage.

He not only used his pulpit to teach the words of Christ, but also the true meaning of those words.

The Cardinal has stated recently that he would like his epitaph to simply say that he was "a good priest." What an understatement. He certainly was.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless him as he returns to the comforting arms of God for eternal salvation and peace.

CARDINAL O'CONNOR: EARTH'S LOSS, HEAVEN'S GAIN

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Cardinal O'Connor of New York, a man after God's own heart and one of the greatest and most consistent moral and spiritual leaders of the 20th century, has passed away.

Cardinal O'Connor loved unconditionally and gave generously, expecting nothing in return. He proclaimed and demonstrated by his words, works, and actions the indescribable blessings of the gospel.

Cardinal O'Connor was a good and holy priest who radiated Christ and the healing power of God to believers and nonbelievers alike.

Over the years, there were some who mocked and rejected Cardinal O'Connor's clear Christian teaching on the sanctity of all human life and the duty of all men and women of goodwill, especially politicians, to protect the vulnerable from the violence of abortion. Yet he always treated the opponents of his message with respect and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, in the 25th chapter of Matthew's Gospel Jesus spoke of the last judgment and those, like Cardinal O'Connor, who would be blessed in eternity. Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed me; I was in prison and you came to me." And then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?" And the Lord will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to the least of my brethren, you did it to Me."

Mr. Speaker, Cardinal O'Connor devoted his life and inspired countless others to do the same to help the "least," the disenfranchised, and the unwanted seeing Christ himself in the lives that nobody else cared about or wanted. Earth's loss of Cardinal O'Connor is heaven's gain.

THE PROBLEM OF SPAM E-MAIL

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.