SENATE—Tuesday, June 13, 2000

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today’s prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Father Gregoire J. Fluet, Saint Bridget of Kildare Church, Moodus, CT.

We are pleased to have you with us.

The guest Chaplain, Father Gregoire J. Fluet, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We read in the Scriptures: “For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the path of justice.”—Proverbs 2:6-8.

Lord God, we beseech You to continue to bless our great Nation. You have from the inception of this Nation been its light and blessed it with Your grace and bounty. The men and women of this Senate again seek Your wisdom and guidance as they exercise their call to leadership. Send Your blessing upon them. Allow them to be filled with Your grace and peace. Allow them to continue to be courageous, self-giving, and dedicated to integrity and right. Allow them to recognize Your presence in this Chamber and in their deliberations.

Lord God, allow all of us never to forget that we profess as a people, as a nation, to be under Your guidance and Your love. We thank You for Your gifts, for our Nation, for the boundless blessings You send us each day. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable George Voinovich, a Senator from the state of Ohio, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Voinovich). The Senator from Connecticut.

FATHER GREGOIRE J. FLUET

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am deeply honored this morning to have had Father Gregoire Fluet provide us with the opening prayer in this session of the Senate. It is a particular pleasure because Father Fluet is not just a resident of Connecticut but he is my parish priest. So this morning is a moment of particular pride to welcome him to the Senate.

Father Fluet is someone I have known now for a number of years. We met each other when Father Fluet was the pastor of St. Joseph’s Church in North Grosvenordale, CT. I used to, on an annual basis, speak at the communion breakfast of the Knights of Columbus, something which I enjoyed immensely and did for more than 20 years. It was a wonderful experience. The community would get together and Father Fluet would say mass and participate in the breakfast afterwards. We had a wonderful time over many, many years.

Then, to my wonderful surprise, on the retirement of my dear friend and pastor, Father Henry Dziadosz—unfortunately, we just lost Monsignor Dziadosz, a wonderful human being—Father Fluet was assigned to my home parish in East Haddam, CT, a section of Moodus, CT. You have to be very careful; it is really East Haddam. The people of my town would appreciate the distinction I am making here.

Father Fluet is a wonderful man, a spiritual leader; he has counseled and advised me on numerous occasions. He has a wonderful background in history. He is a teacher. He taught at St. Bernard’s High School in the diocese of Norwich. He also was a curate at the parish in Lyme, CT. He just received his doctorate in New England and will resume consideration of the Department of Defense appropriations bill, with Senator Reid to be recognized to offer an amendment regarding medical privacy.

As a reminder, the Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 for the weekly party conference meetings. Upon reconvening, there will be 2 minutes of debate on the Boxer amendment regarding pesticides, with a vote scheduled to occur at approximately 2:20 p.m. It is hoped that consideration of the Defense appropriations bill can be completed by this evening, and therefore Senators can expect votes throughout the afternoon.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a member of the Senate on the floor.