

In the book of Isaiah, the first chapter, it says, "Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow."

That is a command that the Lord tells those who seek to follow Him. Cardinal O'Connor was a true man of God who will be deeply missed, but hopefully we can follow the example of his life in our lives as well.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened to hear about the death of His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor and wish to announce my support for the resolution sponsored by Representative VITO FOSSELLA to express the condolences of the House of Representatives on His Eminence's death. His Eminence was a man of compassion and devotion to people of all faiths and will be forever remembered for his service to the Catholic Church and his country. His Eminence was, and will always be, an inspiration to me and Catholics around the world for his leadership. As an adoptive father, I want to take this time to recognize His Eminence's devotion to protecting the life of the unborn by promoting adoption as an alternative to abortion.

On October 15, 1984, His Eminence announced for the first time that, "any women, of any color, of any religion, of any ethnic background, of any place, who is pregnant and in need, under pressure to have an abortion, can come to us in the Archdiocese of New York, can come personally to me. If she is in need, we will see that she is given free medical care and free hospitalization. If she wants to have her baby adopted we will provide free legal assistance. If she wants to keep her baby we will provide free assistance.

His Eminence expanded on this by saying during his January 17, 1999 Respect Life Sunday Homily, "Since the 15th day of October in 1984, many thousands of women have come to us and many thousands of babies have been saved. Equally important, the lives of their mothers have been made whole. The infants in their wombs have leaped for joy at the news that they would be brought safely into this world, as the infant in the womb of Elizabeth leaped for joy when Mary came bearing within her womb the Lord of Life Himself. Every human being in this Church, every human being that any one of us will meet this day or on any day of our lives is a sacred human being."

This country owes debt of gratitude for His Eminence's leadership on important issues of the day, and I want to personally single out his efforts to protect the sanctity of life and promote adoption.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, Cardinal O'Connor will be missed by our entire nation. He was quietly courageous—unafraid to take positions that might not be popular, while always approaching people with dignity and humility. Earlier this year, Congress had the privilege of bestowing on Cardinal O'Connor the Congressional Gold Medal, our highest civilian honor.

When asked how he would like to be remembered, Cardinal O'Connor said he wanted to be remembered simply as a "good priest." Cardinal O'Connor was more than a good priest, he was a great man. He was an example to people of all faiths about how to live a truly God-filled life. Whether it was his work with AIDS patients or his commitment to education, Cardinal O'Connor kept himself immersed in helping others.

Cardinal O'Connor loved God. He loved the Church. He loved his family, and he loved his friends. But he also loved and was committed to the less fortunate. His life serves as an example to us all.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sorrow to the people of New York and to pay tribute to a great man. We all are much poorer today, because during the night, His Eminence, John Cardinal O'Connor died.

Cardinal O'Connor was a spiritual leader to 2.3 million Catholics. Despite this challenge, he did not limit his advocacy to strictly Catholic matters. Rather, he spoke out on a variety of issues. For example, Cardinal O'Connor has condemned racism in any and all forms. Cardinal O'Connor has also reached out to New York's Jewish community. He has issued condemnations of anti-semitism and spearheaded the effort to establish diplomatic ties between the Vatican and Israel. An endowed chair of Jewish Studies is named in his honor at the Catholic Seminary in Dunwoodie, New York.

But more importantly, the Cardinal was not only a man of words, but of action. During the early and most frightening stages of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, he opened New York State's first AIDS-only unit at St. Clare's Hospital. He remained a frequent visitor and volunteer at this unit, spending untold hours with those in pain and suffering, and counseling patients in their last moments on this earth. Catholic parishioners in America knew well of Cardinal O'Connor's contributions for the betterment of our society, most especially his work on behalf of disabled persons and the people who care for them.

Cardinal John O'Connor was a great man, who has finally found peace from a devastating illness and we are all better people for having known him.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues who spoke today about the death of Cardinal O'Connor. In the passing of this tremendous spiritual beacon, millions of American worshippers have lost a great shepherd of the faithful.

Cardinal O'Connor was an unabashed champion for human life and human dignity. His presence will be missed. Throughout his illness he showed us how to face death with dignity as well.

John Cardinal O'Connor was a giant. He lived his life as a true pillar of faith. In a time when our nation and our world has witnessed a general move toward the devaluation of our common humanity, this man stood firm against the grain. There has never been a time when it has been as difficult as it is now for people to stand against the worst traits of modernity. Cardinal O'Connor's example shows beyond the shadow of a doubt that humans can continue to stand firm for noble goals even in this most difficult of times.

Having had the opportunity to correspond with him recently, I can attest that he remained a gentle and principled man until the very end of his earthly life. May God continue to bless the Cardinal and reveal Himself in all of His majesty to this great man in the place he has now been welcomed.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Without objection, the pre-

vious question is ordered on the concurrent resolution.

There was no objection.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 317.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of 22 U.S.C. 276h, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Mexico-United States Inter-parliamentary Group, in addition to Mr. KOLBE of Arizona, Chairman, appointed on February 14, 2000:

Mr. BALLENGER of North Carolina, Vice Chairman;

Mr. DREIER of California;

Mr. BARTON of Texas;

Mr. EWING of Illinois;

Mr. MANZULLO of Illinois;

Mr. BILBRAY of California;

Mr. STENHOLM of Texas;

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona;

Mr. FILNER of California;

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD of California; and

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's Washington Post and also in today's Washington Post there were two articles in which Vice President GORE is scolding Governor Bush, candidate for president, on Social Security. In today's article, Vice President GORE in a speech yesterday to labor union members in Atlantic City said that Governor Bush had a secret plan to gut the Social Security program.

Now, the vice president is quite effective in being an advocate for the politics of fear, and it is a shame that he