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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by guest Chaplin Monsignor Joseph Quinn of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Carbondale, PA.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of compassion and mercy, we pray this day that the esteemed Members of this august Senate of these United States will continue to write into law the story of a country that measures its success by God's standard; by how well it cares for the weakest, the neediest and the most vulnerable among us.

Give this noble body and all who assist it an outpouring of Your guiding spirit that they may forever be wise in their judgments and serve selflessly the best interests of all of the people of our beloved land.

Broaden their personal concerns that they may always seek the common good and be forever attuned to the hopeful cries of the least powerful in our society. Clarify their vision each day as they work together in search of the best ideas and most impactful strategies to meet the greatest needs of our day and age.

Lord, bless all of our Senators. May their faith in You and in the destiny of our great country keep them ever humble in Your service and consciously grateful for the extraordinary privileges and creative authority entrusted to them. And may this United States Senate be always a living sign of our national unity. May it be good news to the poor and instruments of peace for this world.

Lord God, in You we trust now and forever and in Your Holy Name we pray this day and always. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 7, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today there will be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans will control the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2284, a bill to restore the financial solvency of the National Flood Insurance Fund.

As a reminder, the Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 today for the weekly caucus luncheons.

### WELCOMING GUEST CHAPLAIN

I ask for a couple moments of personal privilege.

Monsignor Joseph Quinn offered our prayer. I wish to say how proud I am to be here this morning to witness that. He is a very dear friend and someone who has, for many years, ministered to my family and to families throughout northeastern Pennsylvania in good times and bad.

We are grateful for his presence today. We are grateful he was able to offer the prayer. I will submit for the RECORD a fuller statement of some background material on his life. But he has been so much a part of the fabric of northeastern Pennsylvania.

He has often said that in large families, the joys are multiplied and sorrows are divided. We are grateful for his leadership as a priest, and now as a monsignor, but in a very personal way, for what he has meant to so many families in northeastern Pennsylvania. I am honored to be here to share a couple minutes with him and am grateful for his presence today in the Senate.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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