

Prayer
Opening Session
Senate
State of Iowa
Monday, January 14, 2019
Bishop Richard Pates

I am grateful to Senator Charles Schneider, President of the Iowa Senate for the invitation to lead the opening prayer of this body.

In our prayer today, I quote the “Beatitudes of the Politician” as proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal Francis-Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan who was a long-held prisoner in solitary confinement by the Viet-Cong. The Cardinal died in 2002. His words have a timeless character.

Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role.

Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility.

Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest.

Blessed be the politician who remains consistent.

Blessed be the politician who works for unity.

Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change.

Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.

Blessed be the politician who is without fear.

We pray for each of you, Senators, in gratitude for your generous service, for your commitment to the common good, for your courage in pursuing the high road, for the sacrifices you make to fulfill your role.

Through God’s Grace, may all experience the satisfying consolation that comes from one’s personal investment in the noble vocation of politics.

Amen.