IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLICS IN IDAHO HISTORY AND CONGRATULATING THE DIOCESE OF BOISE AND ALL IDAHOANS OF CATHOLIC FAITH ON THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVER-SARY OF THE CREATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BOISE.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the first Catholics to arrive in Idaho were French-Canadian fur trappers in the mid-eighteenth and early nineteenth century; and

WHEREAS, in 1815, a band of Iroquois, led by Ignace La Mouse, migrated from Canada to Idaho, bringing with them rudiments of the Catholic religion, and spoke of the need of priests in black robes to show the way to heaven to the local natives. This prompted members of the Flathead and Nez Perce Tribes to make four long journeys over the next twenty-five years to St. Louis, Missouri, to request a priest; and

WHEREAS, in February 1840, Father Pierre Jean De Smet, of Belgian origin, was appointed superior of the Rocky Mountain Missions and celebrated the first Mass in Idaho on July 23, 1840, at Henrys Lake; and

WHEREAS, in 1843, the first Catholic church in Idaho was built by Father Nicolas Point, a French-born Jesuit priest and missionary, on the St. Joe River near St. Maries. The church was named Sacred Heart, but popularly known as the Cataldo Mission, named after Father Joseph M. Cataldo. Due to flooding, the mission was moved to its present location on the Coeur d'Alene River in 1846. The current building, the oldest building in Idaho, was built between 1850 and 1853 by Father Antonio Ravalli, an Italian-born Jesuit priest. Recently, a long-forgotten early painting of the Cataldo Mission was discovered among the many paintings and frescos of the Brumidi Corridors in the Senate wing of the United States Capitol; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 1868, one hundred fifty years ago this year, His Holiness Pope Pius IX declared Idaho Territory a vicariate apostolate. A Belgian-born priest in the San Francisco diocese, Reverend Louis Aloysius Lootens was named the first Vicar Apostolic of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of that declaration, on August 26, 1893, one hundred twenty-five years ago, His Holiness Pope Leo XIII established Boise as a diocese, which includes the entire State of Idaho, and appointed the first Bishop, Reverend Alphonse Glorieux, who made Boise his See and established St. John the Evangelist Parish as his Cathedral; and

WHEREAS, a large amount of the Diocese of Boise's charity work is through partnerships with Catholic Charities of Idaho, and the Diocese has historically supported the establishment and operation of several hospitals in Idaho, including Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Mercy Medical Center in Nampa, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Lewiston, and St. Mary's Hospital in Cottonwood; and

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Boise also supports the operation of several schools in Idaho, including Bishop Kelly High School, Sacred Heart, St. Joseph's, St. Mary's and St. Mark's in Boise, Holy Family in Coeur d'Alene, Summit Academy in Cottonwood, Sts. Peter and Paul in Grangeville, Holy Rosary in Idaho Falls, All Saints in Lewiston, St. Ignatius in Meridian, St. Mary's in Moscow, St. Paul's in Nampa, Holy Spirit in Pocatello, St. Nicholas in Rupert, and St. Edward's in Twin Falls; and

WHEREAS, the Diocese of Boise has been led since its creation by Bishop Alphonse Joseph Glorieux, Bishop Daniel Mary Gorman, Bishop Edward Kelly, Bishop James Byrne, Bishop Sylvester William Treinen, Bishop Tod David Brown, and the recently deceased and fondly remembered Bishop Michael Patrick Driscoll, each having left a unique imprint on Idaho. The Diocese of Boise is presently led by Bishop Peter Forsyth Christensen; and

WHEREAS, the Catholic Church has been a source of spiritual guidance, comfort, and fellowship for many Idahoans, including many immigrant communities, including people of Irish, Basque, German and Hispanic origin, among many others; and

WHEREAS, Catholics in Idaho now number more than 150,000, making it one of the largest churches in Idaho, and the church with the longest continuous presence in Idaho.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that we recognize the contributions of Catholics in Idaho history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we hereby recognize and congratulate the Diocese of Boise and all Idahoans of Catholic faith on the one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of the Diocese of Boise.