

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-251

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

July 9, 2024

To recognize and celebrate Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Southeast, DC, on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary, for its exceptional dedication and service to both its members and community.

WHEREAS, Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church was founded on December 7, 1924 by Father Joseph Buckley, as the “daughter church” of Saint Teresa of Avila;

WHEREAS, Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church celebrated its first masses in the home of one of the congregants, and enough money was raised by congregants and Father Buckley to purchase the lots at 27<sup>th</sup> and O Streets, S.E.;

WHEREAS, The “Hut Church” (a portable military building) was purchased from Saint Gabriel’s Church, which served for 11 years until a permanent building for St. Francis Xavier was built;

WHEREAS, congregants raised over \$150,000 for the current building, which was built in 1936 and dedicated in 1937, with over 1,000 people in attendance;

WHEREAS, Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church was named after the “Patron Saint of Missionaries” (1506-1552);

WHEREAS, in an effort to fulfill Father Buckley’s dream to have “every Catholic child in a Catholic school”, the school building at 27<sup>th</sup> and O Streets, S.E., was dedicated on March 3, 1940, the same year that Father Buckley blessed the new John Philip Sousa Bridge;

WHEREAS, in 1948, Washington became its own archdiocese, separating from the Mother See of Baltimore, and the new Archbishop of Washington, Patrick O’Boyle, desegregated Catholic schools and churches in 1950, 4 years before *Brown vs. Board of Education* did the same for public schools;

WHEREAS, to accommodate the rapid growth of the student body, in 1954, a new Saint Francis Xavier school building was added, behind the church;

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WHEREAS, approximately 20 former students from Saint Francis Xavier have been ordained as priests or have joined to become sisters in various orders;

WHEREAS, Saint Francis Xavier continues to faithfully serve the spiritual needs of its members and of the neighborhood through its many ministries and charitable outreach such as its monthly food pantry, Thanksgiving food drive, Christmas presents for children, winter coat drive, and other assistance;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church Recognition Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Saint Francis Xavier Church for 100 years of dedication and service to the community in the District.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.