

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
2 CATHOLICS IN IDAHO HISTORY AND CONGRATULATING THE DIOCESE OF BOISE AND
3 ALL IDAHOANS OF CATHOLIC FAITH ON THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVER-
4 SARY OF THE CREATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BOISE.
5

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 WHEREAS, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of that declaration, on August
33 26, 1893, one hundred twenty-five years ago, His Holiness Pope Leo XIII es-
34 tablished Boise as a diocese, which includes the entire State of Idaho, and
35 appointed the first Bishop, Reverend Alphonse Glorieux, who made Boise his
36 See and established St. John the Evangelist Parish as his Cathedral; and

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, the Catholic Church has been a source of spiritual guidance,
15 comfort, and fellowship for many Idahoans, including many immigrant commu-
16 nities, including people of Irish, Basque, German and Hispanic origin, among
17 many others; and

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

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

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