

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 96

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and honor Sister Mary Innocenté Wiltz, SSF, for eighty years of devoted religious service, particularly through her ministry in education, and to express heartfelt gratitude and admiration for her enduring legacy of faith, compassion, and community leadership.

WHEREAS, Mary Myrtle Wiltz, affectionately known as "Myrtle" to her family, was born in St. Martinville, Louisiana, the ninth of ten children born to Gabriel Wiltz and Felicia Dugas Wiltz, and was raised in a home deeply rooted in faith and the traditions of Notre Dame Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, she attributes her vocation and spiritual journey to the unwavering love and example of her parents and her nine siblings: Martin Wiltz Sr.; Hilda W. Robertson; Harold Wiltz; Anita W. James; Jack Wiltz; Rita W. Ratliff; Sister Theresa Wiltz; Mary W. Hebert; and Philomena W. Andrews; and

WHEREAS, at the age of eighteen, on September 7, 1945, she entered the order of the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she began her religious formation and received the name Sister Mary Innocenté Wiltz; and

WHEREAS, Sister Innocenté professed her first vows on March 19, 1948, and her perpetual vows on August 16, 1953, committing her life to the service of God, the Church, and the education of children; and

WHEREAS, throughout her long and impactful career, Sister Innocenté served as an elementary school teacher in numerous schools across Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Belize, Central America; and

WHEREAS, her teaching assignments included Our Lady of Grace in Reserve; St. Paul the Apostle, All Saints, St. Raymond, Corpus Christi, Marian Central, and House of the Holy Family in New Orleans; St. Francis of Assisi in Breaux Bridge; St. Paul's in Lafayette; Marksville Catholic in Marksville; Holy Family in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Sacred Heart in Belize; and

WHEREAS, her ministry extended far beyond the classroom - her presence left a "glowing legacy" of love, kindness, compassion, and spiritual wisdom, impacting generations of students, teachers, families, and community members; and

WHEREAS, Sister Innocenté exemplifies a vibrant and humble prayer life, generously sharing her devotion with everyone she encounters, faithfully attending daily Mass, leading hymns, praying the Rosary, and joyfully engaging in community activities such as BINGO; and

WHEREAS, she is known for offering motherly advice and spiritual comfort, always guided by her cherished message: "Have faith and trust in God. He will not give you more than you can bear"; and

WHEREAS, Sister Innocenté remains deeply grateful to the parishioners of Notre Dame Catholic Church and the community of St. Martinville, whose prayers and support have accompanied her throughout her spiritual journey, and she in turn prays daily for them and for all her former students; and

WHEREAS, her eighty years of religious life are a shining example of humble service, spiritual strength, and educational leadership.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and honor Sister Mary Innocenté Wiltz for her extraordinary life of service to the Church, her students, and to her community, and extends its deepest appreciation for the radiant legacy she has built through her faith, devotion, and compassionate leadership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sister Mary Innocenté Wiltz and to the Sisters of the Holy Family.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE