

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 352

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOYD

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Sisters of the Holy Family of New Orleans, the first African American Catholics to serve as missionaries.

WHEREAS, the Sisters of the Holy Family is a Catholic religious order of African American nuns based in New Orleans, Louisiana, that was founded in 1842 by Henriette Delille, a free woman of color who was motivated by her faith and desire to serve the marginalized members of her community; and

WHEREAS, the initial vows of the Sisters of the Holy Family were pronounced in St. Augustine Church, a historically significant church for the African American community in New Orleans; the order established a motherhouse, which later included the Lafon Nursing Facility and the Delille Manor Senior Citizens Home; and

WHEREAS, the Sisters of the Holy Family of New Orleans undertook missionary efforts in Belize from 1898 until 2008; the order has a legacy of teaching slaves and free people of color, caring for orphans and the elderly, and tending to impoverished and marginalized individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Sisters of the Holy Family established St. Mary's Academy, the first Catholic High School for African American girls in the city of New Orleans, in 1867; the order expanded its work beyond New Orleans by establishing schools in Belize and British Honduras in 1898; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Sisters of the Holy Family continue to serve the community through educational, healthcare, and social outreach ministries, and they are most deserving of the highest recognition for their unwavering service in the city of New Orleans, the state of Louisiana, and abroad.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Sisters of the Holy Family of New Orleans, the first African American Catholics to serve as missionaries and does hereby express enduring appreciation for the order's continued service to the citizens of New Orleans and beyond.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES