

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY SENATOR MORRISH

A RESOLUTION

To commend Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings, Louisiana, on its one hundredth anniversary.

WHEREAS, founded on December 7, 1891, Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church is a Roman Catholic parish dedicated to providing a parish setting in which the family of faith may be nourished by word and sacrament; and

WHEREAS, Catholic immigrants of French descent began arriving in the Jennings area in the mid-1880s from the East and from nearby Lake Charles and were served by Immaculate Conception parish in Lake Charles; and

WHEREAS, in 1889, under the Reverend E. J. Fallon of Lake Charles, a wooden chapel which was unpainted, unfinished, and largely unfurnished, was built south of the railroad at the corner of Madison and South Main streets; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 1890, Archbishop Francis Jansens blessed the chapel and administered confirmation, and on December 7, 1891, that chapel became Our Lady Help of Christians and a new parish was established in the diocese; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Joseph Peeters was appointed pastor in 1892 and remained in that capacity until 1917; and

WHEREAS, from 1907 until 1916, the present church, patterned after Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, was constructed and dedicated on February 29, 1916; and

WHEREAS, the church was built with stones made by hand, one at a time, block by block, when horse and buggies were the mode of transportation; and

WHEREAS, several renovations took place from 1949 to 1956, and again in the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, those renovations were completed by 1976 and a prayer garden was dedicated in October 1987; and

WHEREAS, today, Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church serves more than one thousand families; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church is to proclaim the word of God in an environment of love and understanding, and to affirm and enable the many ministries that the parish affords; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church has flourished for the past one hundred years, and its members and leaders have the utmost trust that His grace will lead them on in harmony and thanksgiving as they celebrate as a community of faith and fellowship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary, does hereby record for posterity the noble and exemplary strides taken by the members and leaders of this special church family in their creation of a loving and dedicated spiritual community, and does hereby extend its best wishes for the church's continued vitality and success in enriching the lives of the people it serves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE