SLS 19RS-113 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Father Patrick Joseph Mascarella.

| 1  | A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  |
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| 2  | To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death, on        |
| 3  | January 24, 2019, of dedicated and beloved priest and tireless advocate for the              |
| 4  | disabled, Father Patrick Joseph Mascarella at the age of seventy-seven.                      |
| 5  | WHEREAS, Patrick Joseph Mascarella was the eleventh child of Charles and Lucy                |
| 6  | Territo Mascarella, first generation Sicilian farmers and grocery store owners in Louisiana; |
| 7  | and  |
| 8  | WHEREAS, Patrick Mascarella was raised with his numerous siblings next door to               |
| 9  | the family grocery store on Highland Road; and   |
| 10 | WHEREAS, Patrick Mascarella felt the call of God at a young age and by the eighth            |
| 11 | grade he entered St. Joseph Seminary in St. Benedict, Louisiana, in St. Tammany Parish and   |
| 12 | he continued his education in 1961 at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana; and     |
| 13 | WHEREAS, as a seminarian, Father Mascarella said he was taught the joy of                    |
| 14 | learning which he enjoyed throughout his entire life and credits his faith formation and     |
| 15 | foundation to these early years; and   |
| 16 | WHEREAS, having completed his education and training, Father Mascarella was                  |
| 17 | ordained a Catholic priest on December 17, 1966, eventually serving for over forty years     |
| 18 | until his retirement from full-time ministry in 2009; and                                    |

| 1  | WHEREAS, Father Mascarella says his parents were good faith role models and he                   |
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| 2  | particularly remembers his mother always walking around the family home carrying her             |
| 3  | rosary; and  |
| 4  | WHEREAS, during his long service in the priesthood, Father Mascarella served in                  |
| 5  | numerous parishes in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, including St. Charles Borromeo Church           |
| 6  | in Baton Rouge, St. Therese of Avila Church in Gonzales, Our Lady of Mercy Church in             |
| 7  | Baton Rouge, St. Isodore the Farmer Church in Baker, Christ the King Church and Catholic         |
| 8  | Center in Baton Rouge, St. George Church in Baton Rouge, St. John the Baptist Church in          |
| 9  | Brusly, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Church in Denham Springs, St. Joseph         |
| 10 | Church in Paulina, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Gramercy, and St. Michael Church         |
| 11 | in Convent; and  |
| 12 | WHEREAS, Father Pat made an indelible impression on each of the parishes in                      |
| 13 | which he served, relating his homilies to his own life experiences, connecting with the          |
| 14 | congregations in a very personal and caring manner; and  |
| 15 | WHEREAS, in addition to his leadership of these parishes, Father Pat was                         |
| 16 | instrumental in developing key programs of stewardship on the parish level, directing            |
| 17 | continuing formation for priests, helping to create and adopt new ways of evangelization         |
| 18 | through faith-based classes, retreats, and increased liturgical participation; and               |
| 19 | WHEREAS, Father Mascarella's greatest challenge was his deteriorating eyesight,                  |
| 20 | having worn glasses most of his life, the results of detached retinas, macular degeneration      |
| 21 | and other issues were stealing his ability to see and remain independent in living his life; and |
| 22 | WHEREAS, much like any other challenge in his life, Father Mascarella faced his                  |
| 23 | ever degenerating eyesight head on, taking a sabbatical to learn Braille and how to use a        |
| 24 | white cane and eventually pairing with his beloved service dog, Pace; and                        |
| 25 | WHEREAS, after spending two weeks in Oregon getting to know each other, Father                   |
| 26 | Pat and Pace returned to Baton Rouge to live a full and independent life, depending only on      |
| 27 | each other; and  |
| 28 | WHEREAS, in 2016, with Pace an active participant throughout, Father Mascarella                  |
| 29 | earned his master's degree in religious studies from Louisiana State University; and             |
|    |  |

WHEREAS, in the course of obtaining his advanced degree, Father Pat took art

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| 1  | classes that kindled an interest in painting, sculpting, pottery, and other artistic endeavors, |
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| 2  | and was pleased to have his own small exhibit at a local facility in Baton Rouge; and           |
| 3  | WHEREAS, through his personal struggles with his loss of sight, Father Pat became               |
| 4  | a vocal and untiring advocate for those with disabilities, lobbying at the Capitol with Pace    |
| 5  | at his side; and  |
| 6  | WHEREAS, in response to his dedication to Father Mascarella, Pace was named                     |
| 7  | Service Animal of the Year in 2011; and   |
| 8  | WHEREAS, as Father Pat was retiring from his clerical life, he and Pace settled                 |
| 9  | down in Spanish Town, where Father Pat was active in the Historic Spanish Town Civic            |
| 10 | Association, and the pair was a familiar and welcomed presence on the sidewalks of that area    |
| 11 | in the capital city; and  |
| 12 | WHEREAS, if the calling to live a religious life is, at its heart, a dedication to the          |
| 13 | service to others, to bringing the teachings of the Church to congregations, and to living      |
| 14 | according to the teachings of Jesus Christ, there has been no better servant than Father        |
| 15 | Patrick Joseph Mascarella, a dedicated and loving servant of the Church and a fixture in the    |
| 16 | Catholic community in Baton Rouge and its surrounding parishes.                                 |
| 17 | THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby                         |
| 18 | express sincere condolences upon the death of Father Patrick Joseph Mascarella, a man of        |
| 19 | the Church and a dedicated servant of God.  |
| 20 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to                         |
| 21 | Lucian Mascarella, on behalf of Father Mascarella's entire family.                              |

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

**DIGEST** 2019 Regular Session SCR 7 Original

Claitor

Expresses condolences upon the death of Father Patrick Joseph Mascarella.