

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 136

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Reverend Thomas Anthony James, SVC, pastor of St. Joseph Church, Broussard, Louisiana, and St. Anthony Mission Chapel, Cade, Louisiana, upon the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

WHEREAS, Fr. James is the son of Collins and Eva Anthony James of St. Martinville, Louisiana, and his parents, now deceased, were a tremendous influence on him, his brother Collins James, and his sister, Sister Geneva James, SSF; and

WHEREAS, he attended Notre Dame Catholic Church where he was an altar server, and Notre Dame Elementary School which was run by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament; for high school, he entered Divine Word Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and then attended Divine Word College in Miramar, Massachusetts, outside of Boston, Massachusetts for two years; and

WHEREAS, Father James next attended Divine Word Seminary in Canesus, New York, participating in the Novitiate Program, a two-year program for further discernment toward priesthood, and during those two years, he began the process toward a bachelor's degree and completed one year in spirituality, and upon completion, he received a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy; and

WHEREAS, he was asked to return to Bay St. Louis to teach English to the high school seminary students for one year and after that year, he spent the summer in Los Angeles, California, to be a guide at a boys' summer camp run by the SVDs in Riverside, California; he then enrolled in Divine Word Seminary for Theological Studies in Techny, Illinois, and at the same time, enrolled at Loyola University Chicago to pursue his master's degree in philosophy; and

WHEREAS, after two years, the seminary moved to downtown Chicago, and he enrolled in the Catholic Theological Union to complete his final two years of theology; at

the same time he attended Chicago University, the Lutheran School of Theology, where he pursued his master's in theology; and in his final year of study, was ordained a transitional deacon and was appointed for six months to work as a deacon at St. Anselm Catholic Church in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, he was ordained to the priesthood on December 18, 1969, by Bishop Boudreaux at Divine Word Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and following ordination, returned to Techny, Illinois, and worked for six months in the CPE Program at Lutheran General Hospital in Northfield, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, following that, he was appointed to the Western Province of the Divine Word Missionaries in Los Angeles, California, and served for twenty years as a teacher and then principal at Verbum Dei High School in Los Angeles before returning to Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he has served as Associate Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lafayette; pastor of St. Edward Church, New Iberia, and pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lafayette, during which time, he served the Diocese of Lafayette as Episcopal Vicar of the South Region and then Episcopal Vicar of the Central Region, serving as administrator of numerous diocesan parishes; and

WHEREAS, he also served as Vice-Provincial for the Divine Word Missionaries, Southern Province, for three terms and was a long-time member of the Provincial Council for the Divine Word Missionaries, Southern Province; and

WHEREAS, Father James currently serves as pastor of St. Joseph Church, Broussard, Louisiana, and St. Anthony Mission Chapel, Cade, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Father James has been and continues to be an inspiration to so many and has made a lasting impression in the hearts of those who have been fortunate to know and love him, and it is appropriate to recognize and extend to him sincere and heartfelt appreciation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Reverend Thomas Anthony James upon the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination as a priest, does hereby recognize the good works and service that Father James has given to numerous churches, and particularly his wonderful service as pastor of St. Joseph Church, Broussard, Louisiana, and St. Anthony Mission Chapel, Cade, Louisiana,

does hereby express gratitude for the many lives that Father James has touched during his ministry, and does hereby extend to him best wishes for health, happiness, and God's richest blessings in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Father Thomas Anthony James.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE