

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 93

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

A RESOLUTION

To commend St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church for its community involvement.

WHEREAS, St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1880; it has been led by five pastors over the course of its history: Reverend Joseph L. Dennis, Reverend George Washington Williams, Reverend James Charles Wing, Reverend Talton Willie Lewis, and its current pastor, Dr. Melvin Collins Zeno; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph has provided disaster relief services on numerous occasions; in 2016, the church helped salvage houses and provide food and clothing for victims of disasters in South Carolina, and in 2017, it provided the same services to Hurricane Harvey victims in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Port Arthur, Texas; in September 2020, the church provided gift cards and cash assistance to residents of Lake Charles following Hurricane Laura; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the church's Feeding Ministry provided more than six thousand meals annually; it has also assisted Habitat for Humanity in the construction of twenty-three houses, and its Philadelphia Missionary Ministry continues to help house the homeless and feed the hungry; and

WHEREAS, St Joseph instituted a social justice ministry in 2019 to help the community understand the rights and privileges of American citizens; the ministry has brought in representatives to discuss child care, child support and custody, domestic violence, and voters' rights; and

WHEREAS, during the pandemic, St. Joseph distributed shoe boxes filled with personal items and distributed gift bags of healthy foods at the Ozanam Inn; the church also delivered turkey baskets to families for Thanksgiving and distributed gifts to foster children for Christmas; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph also offers youth enrichment programs to the members of its community; the church's Boys to Men program offers mentorship to boys ages five to seventeen; the church's Youth and Young Adult Department organized its Education Incentive Program to motivate children to strive for academic success; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church is an invaluable institution in Jefferson Parish, and it is most deserving of recognition for its community involvement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church for its community involvement; does hereby recognize the church's dedication to Jefferson Parish and people in need everywhere for over one hundred forty years; and does hereby extend sincere hopes that it continue to serve as a beacon of light in times of darkness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the pastor of St. Joseph Missionary Baptist Church.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES