



HR0904

LRB101 22196 LAW 73226 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Our Lady of Mount Carmel
4 Catholic Church in Darien on the occasion of the parish's 50th
5 anniversary on September 26, 2020; and

6 WHEREAS, The parish was given authorization to proceed in
7 1970 by the administration of the Joliet Diocese that intended
8 to place a new Catholic church in the vicinity of Interstate 55
9 and Cass Avenue in Darien; and

10 WHEREAS, The new church served a growing population of
11 local residents and families living in the Darien, Willowbrook,
12 Burr Ridge, and surrounding unincorporated communities of
13 DuPage County; and

14 WHEREAS, Carmelite Provincial, The Reverend Malachy Smith,
15 agreed to sell a 7-acre parcel of land in Darien to the Joliet
16 Diocese with the request that leaders of the Carmelite Order be
17 allowed to staff and lead the new parish; and

18 WHEREAS, The name of the church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel,
19 was chosen by Bishop Romeo R. Blanchette and honors the
20 patroness of all Carmelites; and

1 WHEREAS, Founding families officially formed a religious
2 community and worshiped at various locations before an official
3 groundbreaking for the church building took place in 1975; the
4 new parish building was formally dedicated on September 26,
5 1976, exactly six years after the parish was started within the
6 Joliet Diocese; and

7 WHEREAS, Father Pat Gleeson, whose name and vision are
8 often recalled and reminisced in the long history of the
9 parish, was selected to be the first pastor to lead the parish
10 from 1970 to 1979; his successors included Father Russ Gavin
11 from 1979 to 1988, Father Jim Wilson from 1988 to 1990, Father
12 Gavin Quinn from 1990 to 2006, and current pastor Father
13 Michael O'Keefe from 2006 to present; and

14 WHEREAS, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Darien
15 originated in a tradition of dedication and service to others,
16 encouraging all parishioners to share their time, talents, and
17 skills for the betterment of the church and the communities
18 being served; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we congratulate Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Darien on
22 the parish's 50th anniversary, and we commend all past and
23 present administrators, religious leaders, parish council

1 members, support staff, and parishioners for their remarkable
2 service and successful stewardship of the church; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to Father Michael O'Keefe as an expression of our
6 esteem and respect.