



HR0760

LRB103 40571 ECR 73155 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate St. Joseph Church in Island Grove on the occasion of its 150th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, In 1864, the first Catholic family arrived in Island Grove, and they were joined by 12 more Catholic families by the start of the new decade; during this time, the nearest Catholic church was in Teutopolis, a journey which became a hardship for Island Grove parishioners during cold and wet months; and

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WHEREAS, The local Catholic families expressed interest in building a church in the Island Grove area; in the fall of 1870, Landelin Koebele, the head of one of the Catholic families, donated four acres of land to be used for church property; and

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WHEREAS, Father Mauritius Klosterman deemed the land appropriate and suitable for the church site, and construction of St. Joseph Church was started in the spring of 1872; under the guidance of experienced carpenter and fellow parishioner Brother Camillus, the exterior of the church was completed in the fall of 1873; and

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1           WHEREAS, In the spring of 1874, St. Joseph Church was  
2 furnished by Dr. Eversman, who donated an altar and 16 benches  
3 to accommodate 80 people; the building was fully furnished and  
4 ready for services on March 25, 1874, giving parishioners the  
5 opportunity to celebrate the Feast of Annunciation and the  
6 first Mass in the new church; and

7           WHEREAS, St. Joseph Church grew to accommodate a parochial  
8 school, attended by 14 children, in 1880; the church continued  
9 to grow and, with the help of parishioners who volunteered  
10 their time and building skills, more additions were completed  
11 in 1884, further expanding the church's communal nature; and

12           WHEREAS, On December 29, 1917, St. Joseph Church was  
13 destroyed in a fire; Father Joseph Meyer, the church's pastor  
14 at that time, was able to save the Blessed Sacrament from the  
15 Tabernacle mere moments before a ball of fire fell from the  
16 ceiling to the foot of the altar; outside, the church  
17 community gathered, helplessly watching their beloved house of  
18 worship burn; that night, a few men from the church made the  
19 rough trip to Teutopolis to retrieve an altar stone so  
20 services could resume as soon as possible the following  
21 Sunday; and

22           WHEREAS, St. Joseph Church was rebuilt and rededicated in  
23 December 1918, again with the help of parishioners who donated

1 time and money to restore the building; and

2 WHEREAS, St. Joseph Church remains a staple of Island  
3 Grove and serves as a testament to the fortitude, dedication,  
4 and perseverance of the previous generations of parishioners  
5 and the legacy of their faith moving forward; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
7 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we congratulate St. Joseph Church in Island Grove on its  
9 sesquicentennial anniversary; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to representatives of St. Joseph Church as an  
12 expression of our esteem and respect.