



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 1885 Fr. Charles Hahn from St. Michael's in
3 Chicago established a mission in Libertyville, worshipping
4 initially in the old Town Hall; in 1886 the first Catholic
5 parish church, named for Ss. Peter and Paul, was built on North
6 First Street with Fr. Thomas Kearney as Pastor; in 1897 Fr. Wm.
7 J. Meehan led the parish, and he was followed by Fr. Patrick
8 Scanlon in 1901; and

9 WHEREAS, Fr. Scanlon guided the rebuilding of this first
10 church after a major fire in 1904, which included its
11 relocation to the present site on Maple Avenue; following the
12 completion of the new church, the parish name was changed to
13 St. Joseph; on July 2, 1905, Auxiliary Bishop Peter J. Muldoon
14 traveled to Libertyville to dedicate the new brick church;
15 parish membership then numbered approximately 75 families and
16 the new church had a capacity for 300 people; Fr. Wm. Kinsella
17 became Pastor in 1910; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1912, Fr. Stephen Luttrell succeeded Fr.
19 Kinsella, continuing as pastor until his death in 1923; he was
20 followed by Fr. Martin Nealis, who oversaw the brick
21 construction of the first parish school at 131 East Maple; soon
22 after the house at 217 Park Place was purchased to serve as
23 convent for the Sisters of Mercy who staffed the new school,
24 with the students numbering 150; 1931 brought Fr. Edward
25 Loughry to St. Joseph's, and despite the depression years of
26 the early 1930's, he motivated the parishioners to retire the
27 school debt; the Loughry meeting room was named in his honor;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, In 1946, the Rev. Harry C. Koenig began to help
30 Fr. Loughry serve the growing parish at Sunday worship
31 services; the rapid growth shortly after WWII required the
32 appointment of the church's first Assistant Pastor, Fr. Roger

1 Jones; Fr. Koenig continued to help out until 1955, when he was
2 appointed pastor for the Sacred Heart parish in Chicago; by
3 this time, some 300 children were enrolled in St. Joseph's
4 Parochial School, clearly pointing to the need for greater
5 classroom space; Fr. Loughry launched a pledge drive with
6 parishioners pledging \$263,000 toward construction of a new
7 school; later, in 1957, Fr. Loughry became ill and requested
8 that former pastor and now Monsignor Koenig, be appointed
9 administrator for St. Joseph's Church; he returned and
10 administered the new school's construction, opening in 1959 for
11 498 students; and

12 WHEREAS, Early in the 1960's, St. Joseph's growth reached
13 1,000 families and created a pressing need for a larger church;
14 under Msgr. Koenig's guidance, the current, beautiful and
15 modernistic church was completed in 1966; upon the death of Fr.
16 Loughry, Msgr. Koenig became pastor and remained until 1974,
17 when he was appointed Director of the Cardinal Stritch Retreat
18 House; the Koenig Center was named in his honor, and is the
19 site of the congregation's special family Masses and other
20 parish-wide activities; Mgr. Koenig and Rev. John Egan, Pastor
21 of Presentation Parish, launched the first "Twinning Program"
22 whereby St. Joseph's adopted Presentation as its sister parish;
23 today, several outreach programs continue to support
24 Presentation Parish on Chicago's west side; and

25 WHEREAS, Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Grady became pastor for a
26 brief period until appointed Bishop of Orlando, Florida; Msgr.
27 John P. O'Donnell served as pastor from 1975 until 1984; his
28 successor, the Rev. James O'Connor, saw one of St. Joseph's
29 fastest growth periods as the population of Libertyville
30 expanded significantly; this raised the urgent need for more
31 ministries and parish family activities, leading to the
32 building of the new Koenig Parish Center; in July of 1991,
33 Cardinal Bernardin named Fr. Ronald Anglim to succeed Fr.
34 O'Connor as pastor of St. Joseph's; Fr. Anglim established the

1 church's first "strategic plan" following the guidelines set
2 forth by Vatican II; this plan introduced a major expansion in
3 service activities and additional ministries that necessitated
4 greater lay participation through an educated, paid staff and
5 more trained volunteers; and

6 WHEREAS, Fr. Anglim's successor, Fr. John Hennessey came to
7 the parish in 1997 and continues to serve the parish today; he
8 serves a parish approaching 15,000 parishioners with a
9 \$4,000,000 budget; he leads the congregation with the help of
10 Parish Staff Administrator Bob Blanke, Associate Pastors Fr.
11 Ken Kiepora and Fr. Val Laini, Naval Captain (Ret.) Fr. Vic
12 Ivers, three other Permanent Deacons, and several Pastoral
13 Associates; and

14 WHEREAS, The members of St. Joseph's Parish have been
15 celebrating the 100th Anniversary of their parish since May of
16 2004, and the celebration culminates in a final liturgy on May
17 14, 2005; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we congratulate St. Joseph Parish in Libertyville on the
21 occasion of its 100th anniversary, and we thank the
22 congregation for its faithful service to the spiritual needs of
23 citizens of Illinois; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
25 presented to St. Joseph Parish in Libertyville as an expression
26 of our respect and esteem and with best wishes for the
27 continued success of the parish.