



HR1151

LRB097 21847 GRL 70539 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Fr. Thomas Bernas
4 for his 15 years of dedicated service at St. Richard Catholic
5 Church in Chicago; and

6 WHEREAS, Thomas Bernas was born in Evergreen Park, in 1958;
7 he attended St. Pancratius Grammar School and Quigley
8 Preparatory Seminary South; after graduating from high school
9 in 1976, he enrolled at the Loyola University of Chicago, where
10 he earned his degree in 1980; and

11 WHEREAS, Thomas Bernas entered seminary in 1989 at the St.
12 Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein; after his ordination in
13 1994 at Holy Name Cathedral by Cardinal Bernardin, he was
14 assigned to St. Richard Catholic Church in 1997 as an
15 administrator; his conscientious and tireless work for the
16 parish resulted in his appointment as pastor in 1999; and

17 WHEREAS, During his tenure as pastor, Thomas Bernas devoted
18 his time and energy to improving the community of St. Richard
19 Catholic Church and the surrounding area; he overhauled the
20 parish's finances, paying off its debt and keeping it
21 debt-free; he completed several renovation projects initiated
22 by his predecessor, including the re-painting of the church,

1 the replacement of the church's organ, and the installation of
2 an elevator to facilitate handicapped access; he oversaw the
3 construction of the St. Richard Parish Center and a gymnasium
4 used by the school's children and numerous community groups; he
5 also supervised a complete renovation of the priest's residence
6 and was instrumental in the creation of a recent building
7 renovation and floor plan reconfiguration; and

8 WHEREAS, Thomas Bernas has been an active member of his
9 community life; every year, he has hosted the Archer Heights
10 Civic Association Halloween Party for community children in the
11 church hall and an annual blessing of Chicago firefighters,
12 paramedics, and police officers; and

13 WHEREAS, After 15 years of service at St. Richard, Thomas
14 Bernas will begin a new assignment at St. Rene Goupil Parish,
15 where he will undoubtedly continue his wonderful work in
16 service of his congregation and the community as a whole;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we congratulate Fr. Thomas Bernas for his 15 years of dedicated
21 service at St. Richard Catholic Church and wish him continued
22 success and happiness at St. Rene Goupil Parish; and be it
23 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Thomas Bernas as a symbol of our esteem and
3 respect.