

2009 SESSION

INTRODUCED
REPRINT

099177664

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 999

Offered February 23, 2009

Commending St. Peter's Catholic Church on the occasion of its 175th anniversary.

Patrons—O'Bannon and McClellan

WHEREAS, St. Peter's Catholic Church, the oldest Catholic church in Richmond, will celebrate its 175th anniversary in May 2009; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 1834, St. Peter's Catholic Church, named after Saint Peter, the Prince of the Apostles, was dedicated and became the first Catholic church in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Dubois secured the land at Grace and Eighth Streets and Father O'Brien worked to raise the funds to build St. Peter's Catholic Church, which was constructed in a neoclassic style similar to the Church of Saint Philippe du Roule in Paris; and

WHEREAS, St. Peter's Catholic Church served as the cathedral of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond until 1906, when the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart was consecrated; the church's early congregation consisted mostly of Irish immigrants who worked on the city canal; and

WHEREAS, today, St. Peter's Catholic Church has approximately three hundred parishioners, many of whom travel a long distance to worship as one of a small congregation in the intimacy of the historic church; and

WHEREAS, St. Peter's Catholic Church also provides a place of sanctuary for workers in downtown offices, including people from the Capitol, City Hall, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Health System, and the financial district, who are drawn to worship at the noon mass conducted each weekday by Father Robert Brownell, parish pastor since 1990; and

WHEREAS, St. Peter's Catholic Church is involved in many social outreach programs to help the homeless and other persons in need in Richmond, including the Downtown Community Ministries, VCU Medical Center's on-call service, and Congregations Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter, or CARITAS; and

WHEREAS, St. Peter's Catholic Church has been served throughout its 175-year history by immensely dedicated and able pastors, who have provided visionary leadership, devout worship, meaningful Christian education, and enthusiastic ministry and community missions; and

WHEREAS, throughout its long history, St. Peter's Catholic Church has provided its devoted congregation, its neighbors, and the community a place to worship, to help others, and to grow in faith and service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend St. Peter's Catholic Church on the occasion of its 175th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to St. Peter's Catholic Church as an expression of the General Assembly's best wishes for a joyful celebration and future success in its ministry.

INTRODUCED

HJ999