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LRB104 16585 ECR 29984 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Father Daren J. Zehnle of Quincy, who passed away on November 27, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Father Zehnle, the son of George W. "Bill" and Patricia (Szarka) Zehnle, was born in Quincy on March 26, 1978; he graduated from Quincy High School in 1996, Quincy University in 2000, and the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary in 2005; he was ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield on May 28, 2005; he later completed graduate studies in canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy from 2013 to 2016; at the time of his passing, he was completing postgraduate studies to receive his Master of Arts in Liturgy at the Liturgical Institute, University of St. Mary of the Lake; and

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WHEREAS, Father Zehnle served as parochial vicar at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Effingham from July 2005 to September 2009, where he also taught at St. Anthony High School and served as an assistant coach of the boys' soccer, wrestling, and track teams; he became pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Virden and St. Patrick Parish in Girard in September 2009 before also becoming pastor at Holy Cross Parish in

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1 Auburn in July 2010, serving all three parishes until January
2 2011; he served as priest secretary, episcopal master of
3 ceremonies, and associate director of the Office for Vocations
4 from January 2011 to June 2013; he also served as a parochial
5 vicar at St. Agnes Parish in Springfield, associate director
6 of the Office for Divine Worship and the Catechumenate, and
7 chief master of ceremonies from 2016 to 2017; he then served as
8 pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Ashland from 2017 to 2024
9 while simultaneously serving as pastor of St. Peter Parish in
10 Petersburg from 2019 to 2021; and

11 WHEREAS, Father Zehnle was currently serving as director
12 of the Office for Divine Worship and the Catechumenate, an
13 adjutant judicial vicar, a judge in the diocesan tribunal, an
14 episcopal delegate for Matrimonial Concerns, and a censor
15 librorum; he was further serving as director of campus
16 ministry and an adjunct professor of theology at Quincy
17 University and as the spiritual director for Great River TEC
18 (Teens Encounter Christ); he also regularly provided
19 sacramental assistance at all of Quincy's Catholic parishes;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Father Zehnle was a Knight Commander of the
22 Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem; and

23 WHEREAS, Father Zehnle had a passion for the liturgy and a

1 great devotion to the Holy Face of Manoppello in Italy; he
2 enjoyed studying family genealogy, drinking Dr. Pepper,
3 reading, and traveling, especially to Hawaii; he loved the
4 City of Quincy, Quincy University, J.R.R. Tolkien, the
5 Venerable Augustus Tolton, Saint Marianne Cope, and Saint
6 Damien of Molokai; and

7 WHEREAS, Father Zehnle will be remembered for the
8 countless lives he touched throughout his lifetime of service;
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10 WHEREAS, Father Zehnle was preceded in death by his
11 parents; his twin brother in infancy; his aunt, Mary Reckers;
12 and his cousin, Brian W. Reckers; and

13 WHEREAS, Father Zehnle is survived by his brother, David
14 Zehnle; his nephew, Matthew Zehnle; his uncle, Robert J. "Bob"
15 Reckers; and his cousins, Robert S. "Rob" Reckers, Denise
16 Poepping, and Daniel J. Reckers; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
19 Father Daren J. Zehnle and extend our sincere condolences to
20 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
21 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Father Zehnle as an expression of
3 our deepest sympathy.