



SR0581

LRB104 18442 LAW 31884 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 recognize the students and staff of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
4 Academy (OLMCA) on completing their Kid Conclave school
5 project and their subsequent meeting with Pope Leo XIV at the
6 Vatican; and

7 WHEREAS, OLMCA, a school located in the Lakeview
8 neighborhood of Chicago, has been educating children since its
9 opening in 1888; today, the academy offers top-tier academics
10 to students from preschool to eighth grade in a nurturing
11 Catholic environment for families of diverse cultural,
12 economic, and religious backgrounds; and

13 WHEREAS, OLMCA staff, as part of a school project teaching
14 faith, history, and tradition, conducted a mock papal
15 conclave, or Kid Conclave, for students in May 2025; the
16 project showcased 25 first through sixth grade students, and
17 it also featured two kindergarten students serving in the role
18 of Swiss Guards; and

19 WHEREAS, The selected OLMCA students serving as cardinals
20 donned replica robes and hats, or birettas, made from craft
21 materials by their teachers and proceeded to act out the
22 process of a papal conclave, which included selecting one of

1 their own to become pope, with the rest of the student body
2 taking part as the watching crowd; and

3 WHEREAS, The OLMCA Kid Conclave gained national and
4 international attention online, leading staff and students to
5 be contacted by people of various religious backgrounds from
6 all over Illinois and the United States as well as Canada,
7 France, Germany Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, the Philippines,
8 Portugal, Singapore, Spain, and the United Kingdom; and

9 WHEREAS, OLMCA students were invited to take a pilgrimage
10 to meet Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican in October 2025; the
11 students were introduced to the pope in St. Peter's Square
12 with assistance from Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago, and the
13 pope in turn shook their hands and bestowed a special gift to
14 each student, a rosary with his crest; and

15 WHEREAS, OLMCA's Dominic Moretti, a teacher and director
16 of marketing, and Allison Foerster, a Spanish teacher,
17 orchestrated the conclave lesson and the trip to the Vatican;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The OLMCA Kid Conclave was initially designed as
20 a hands-on learning experience for the students but expanded
21 into an event that captured the hearts of people all around the
22 world; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the
3 students and staff of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy (OLMCA)
4 on their successful completion of the Kid Conclave school
5 project and their subsequent meeting with Pope Leo XIV at the
6 Vatican; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we recognize Dominic Moretti, OLMCA teacher
8 and director of marketing, Allison Foerster, OLMCA Spanish
9 teacher, and the entire OLMCA staff for their work in
10 implementing the Kid Conclave and arranging the visit to the
11 Vatican for students; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy as an expression
14 of our esteem and respect.