



HR1288

LRB099 21969 MST 49009 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the members of St. Joseph  
4 Catholic Church in Stringtown on the occasion of the 175th  
5 anniversary of its founding; and

6           WHEREAS, The Parish of St. Joseph in Stringtown was  
7 officially established on November 5, 1841 when the first Mass  
8 was said in the home of Casmer Klepher; and

9           WHEREAS, The first church, a log building was finished on  
10 February 15, 1842 and was located eight miles northeast of  
11 Olney; and

12           WHEREAS, The church was dedicated to St. Joseph and gave  
13 the people a place to gather and worship; and

14           WHEREAS, By 1879, the parish grew in size and saw the need  
15 for a parish school, which was constructed one-half mile south  
16 of the present church; in 1907, a second school was built; a  
17 third school was built to replace the first two in 1951; and

18           WHEREAS, In 1887, St. Joseph Catholic Church became a part  
19 of the Belleville Diocese; and

1           WHEREAS, In 1899, a new church - Gothic style with brick  
2 foundation- was started and dedicated in 1901; the parishioners  
3 donated their time to cut the logs and hauled them to the saw  
4 mill for lumber to build the new church; and

5           WHEREAS, The new church was heated by wood stoves; in 1949,  
6 wood stoves were replaced by coal furnaces; coal furnaces were  
7 replaced by LP gas furnaces in 1956, and in 1973, another LP  
8 gas furnace was installed for central heating and air  
9 conditioning; the church was wired for electricity in 1939; and

10           WHEREAS, A parish hall was started and completed in 1936;  
11 through the years, parishioners generously donated materials  
12 and labor for the buildings; and

13           WHEREAS, In 1988, a Parish Council was formed to establish  
14 goals and objectives for the parish; and

15           WHEREAS, In 2010, a new parish Hall was constructed by  
16 Kocher Bros. Construction, Inc. to meet the growing needs of  
17 the parish; and

18           WHEREAS, Through the years, the parish has practiced old  
19 and new traditions, including the first parish picnic that was  
20 held in 1888 to help maintain parish expenses while providing  
21 community socialization; St. Joseph picnics are now

1 consistently held on the third Sunday of July each year; and

2 WHEREAS, The Maintenance Committee maintains upkeep on  
3 parish grounds and buildings; the Education Committee provides  
4 opportunities for children to attend religious education  
5 classes and supports children attending catholic school in  
6 Olney; the Social and Service Committee provides opportunities  
7 for parishioners to gather in community; the Finance Committee  
8 helps budget income and expenses; and the Liturgy Committee was  
9 formed to help give spiritual direction to parishioners and  
10 participate in the hospital, assisted living, and nursing home  
11 ministries; and

12 WHEREAS, St. Joseph parish had a traveling pastor until  
13 1901, when Rev. Henry Keuth was assigned resident pastor; he  
14 was followed by 11 other resident pastors until 1977 when there  
15 became a shortage of priests, which resulted in St. Joseph  
16 parish in Olney sharing their resident pastor and associate  
17 pastor with St. Joseph in Stringtown; this continued until 1997  
18 when the Belleville Diocese decided to restructure parishes; at  
19 that time, the pastor of Holy Cross in Wendelin, Fr. David  
20 Braun, was asked to minister at both Stringtown and Wendelin;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, In 2010, Fr. Mark Stec was appointed as the new  
23 pastor of St. Joseph in Stringtown and Holy Cross in Wendelin;

1 Fr. Mark Stec continues to lead the parish family today; and

2 WHEREAS, The parish community celebrated the 25th Jubilee  
3 of Ordained Ministry in honor of Fr. Mark Stec on June 2, 2013;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, St. Joseph Catholic Church is registered as the  
6 second oldest church organization in Richland County; and

7 WHEREAS, There have been 27 young ladies and two young men  
8 from St. Joseph Parish that have dedicated their lives to the  
9 service of God in religious ministry; and

10 WHEREAS, The parishioners of St. Joseph Catholic Church  
11 grow and live their faith during this quartoseptcentennial with  
12 this theme, "Living Our Faith as a Parish Family: Mericiful  
13 Like the Father"; and

14 WHEREAS, St. Joseph Parish in Stringtown will celebrate the  
15 175th anniversary of its founding on November 5, 2016 with a  
16 special Mass celebrated by Bishop Edward K. Braxton from the  
17 Belleville Diocese; following the Mass, a reception will be  
18 held in the parish center to conclude the activities of the  
19 quartoseptcentennial; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
2 congratulate the members of the St. Joseph Parish on the 175th  
3 anniversary of its founding, we commend their dedication and  
4 selfless service, and extend our best wishes to them for  
5 continued success in the future; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the congregation of St. Joseph Parish as an  
8 expression of our esteem and respect.