**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR MONSIGNOR JAMES A. CARTER OF CHRIST OUR KING PARISH IN MOUNT PLEASANT AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM AS HE CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS OF PRIESTLY SERVICE AND SACRIFICE TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND TO HIS GOD.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Monsignor James A. Carter will mark his golden anniversary as a priest and that Christ Our King Parish will remember his achievements during those fifty years with a Golden Jubilee Mass and Social on the evening of April 29, 2016; and

Whereas, the son of James Aloysius and Kathryne Magruder, he was born in Charleston on March 1, 1939, baptized on March 26, 1939, and confirmed into the Catholic Church on May 11, 1952; and

Whereas, he completed studies for a bachelor’s degree at Mount St. Mary’s College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and prepared for holy orders at St. Mary’s Seminary in St. Mary, Kentucky, and at St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland; and

Whereas, after his ordination on May 7, 1966, he began his vocation as a priest, serving for twenty three years in various parishes in South Carolina: St. Mary’s in Greenville, St. John in North Charleston, St. Peter’s in Columbia, Holy Spirit on Johns Island, Our Lady of Good Counsel on Folly Beach, St. Paul the Apostle in Spartanburg, and St. Mary Help of Christians in Aiken; and

Whereas, he returned to his native Lowcountry in June 1989 to serve the parish of Christ Our King in Mount Pleasant, and that same year in the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Hugo, he organized an initiative out of a parking lot across from the church to serve and aid the storm’s victims in the community. From this relief effort, the nonprofit, ecumenical movement, East Cooper Community Outreach, was formed which continues to provide food, clothing, and medical and dental assistance to people in need; and

Whereas, after the hurricane, he transformed the area behind Christ Our King from a natural disaster to a world‑class Way of the Cross garden where, every year since 1991, thousands of pilgrims have followed the passion of Christ; and

Whereas, during the 1990s, Monsignor Carter served the Diocese of Charleston and its Bishop David B. Thompson in various roles, including Vicar General. In May 1991, a prelate of honor, the title monsignor was given to him, and on November 21, 1998, Pope John Paul II conferred to him the Protonotary Apostolic (PA), the highest honor given to a priest; and

Whereas, his desire to strengthen community relations is evident in a myriad of initiatives he inspired: the Altar Park where thousands worship during Easter; the Catholic Community Life Center which hosts local and statewide events; the Russell House, a welcoming resource for community groups; the Beach House, an intergenerational facility; and Christ Our King ‑ Stella Maris School, the largest Blue Ribbon Catholic grade school in the State; and

Whereas, his guiding light throughout his life and priesthood was his beloved aunt, Dr. Patricia Carter; and

Whereas, a priest and homilist at heart, Monsignor Carter is renowned and beloved for his challenging and thought‑provoking homilies filled with wisdom and humor, and for his commitment to rich and meaningful liturgy. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Monsignor James A. Carter of Christ Our King Parish in Mount Pleasant and congratulate him as he celebrates fifty years of priestly service and sacrifice to the Catholic Church and to his God.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Monsignor James A. Carter.

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