**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY AND TO PROCLAIM JULY 11, 2020, AS “THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that on July 11, 2020, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston will celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of its establishment by His Holiness Pope Pius VII on July 11, 1820; and

Whereas, the seventh oldest Roman Catholic district in the United States, the Diocese of Charleston encompasses the entire State of South Carolina. In 1820, it included all of South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Bermuda. Today it is part of the Archdiocese of Atlanta comprised of five dioceses within only the three states; and

Whereas, the total population of South Carolina exceeds five million, an estimated ten percent of which is Roman Catholic, representing a diversity of cultures and ethnic groups of all ages, education, and income levels, as well as working together for a fuller participation in the life of the Church; and

Whereas, from having only the one nascent church, the Diocese of Charleston has expanded to include ninety‑three parishes; one quasi‑parish; twenty missions; thirty‑three diocesan schools, twenty‑eight of which are elementary and five high schools; and one independent school; and

Whereas, the Diocese of Charleston has endeavored through its social teachings to contribute to the spiritual and social welfare of all people, regardless of creed; and

Whereas, the Catholic Church in South Carolina ministers to all people through its charitable outreaches for the poor and vulnerable, educational opportunities in all communities and for all abilities, healing of the sick through its hospitals, the betterment of society by championing for the life and dignity of the human person, the unity of the family, and the solidarity of all communities. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston on the celebration of its bicentennial anniversary and proclaim July 11, 2020, as “the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston Day” in South Carolina.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑