

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 897

Commending Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, April 2, 2025

WHEREAS, for 50 years, Holy Spirit Catholic Church has provided wise spiritual leadership, opportunities for joyful worship, and generous, life-changing outreach to the residents of Virginia Beach; and

WHEREAS, Holy Spirit Catholic Church was established in 1975 by the Most Reverend Walter F. Sullivan, bishop of the Diocese of Richmond, who appointed William H. Carr as the founding pastor; and

WHEREAS, with an initial congregation of 315 families, Holy Spirit Catholic Church held its first services at Holland Elementary School, Plaza Methodist Church, and what is now Plaza Middle School; and

WHEREAS, members of the congregation held religious education classes, baptisms, and First Holy Communion ceremonies in their homes, and they were active in the community by providing pastoral care for the sick and homebound, incarcerated people, and others in need; and

WHEREAS, Holy Spirit Catholic Church created family learning teams to further support education and ministries for men, women, and seniors; the close-knit congregation hosted many picnics, dances, plays, bazaars, and pot luck dinners to foster a stronger sense of community; and

WHEREAS, in November 1976, Holy Spirit Catholic Church formed a stewardship committee to help the church establish a permanent home, and in August 1979, the Holy Spirit Parish Center and Worship Space officially opened; and

WHEREAS, during the 1980s, the Holy Spirit Catholic Church congregation continued to grow in faith and number and established many new programs, including a food pantry and a preschool, to better serve the wider community; and

WHEREAS, during that time, the members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church also sponsored families through a refugee resettlement program, providing food, clothing, shelter, and transportation while helping these families acclimate to their new homes; and

WHEREAS, Holy Spirit Catholic Church continues to celebrate the rich diversity of the community in Virginia Beach and remains a beacon of faith, hope, and resilience for local residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Holy Spirit Catholic Church hereby be commended on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Holy Spirit Catholic Church as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the church's legacy of service to the Virginia Beach community.

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