

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2002 represented a historic moment in the
2 history of the Roman Catholic Church in the Lone Star State, for a
3 new Laredo Diocese was created to better serve the needs of the
4 citizens of South Texas, and a highly respected member of the
5 clergy, the Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, was appointed to serve
6 as its first bishop; and

7 WHEREAS, The Laredo Diocese runs along the Rio Grande,
8 encompassing seven counties, with Laredo and Eagle Pass as its two
9 largest cities, and it will serve a predominantly Hispanic Catholic
10 population of nearly 200,000; and

11 WHEREAS, The creation of this diocese represents the
12 culmination of many years of hard work on the part of Texas bishops,
13 who sought this development because of the common concerns shared
14 by border communities, including unemployment, poverty, and
15 immigration issues; and

16 WHEREAS, An ideal choice to lead the diocese, Bishop Tamayo
17 brings to his new role a wealth of experience garnered over the past
18 26 years, having served in innumerable prestigious capacities; in
19 addition to shepherding many parishes, this dedicated gentleman has
20 served in such distinguished posts as auxiliary bishop of the
21 Diocese of Galveston-Houston, episcopal vicar for clergy and
22 Hispanic affairs, chairman of the Priest Personnel Board, and
23 episcopal liaison to Diocesan Youth; and

24 WHEREAS, Born October 23, 1949, in Brownsville, Bishop Tamayo

1 graduated with honors from the University of St. Thomas in Houston
2 and returned to earn a master's degree; he accepted his calling to
3 the priesthood on June 11, 1976, when he was ordained in Corpus
4 Christi Cathedral by the Most Reverend Thomas J. Drury; and

5 WHEREAS, With his new appointment, Bishop Tamayo is ushering
6 in an exciting new period of change and progress for the citizens of
7 South Texas, and his leadership will undoubtedly help to further
8 unite border communities in working toward common goals and move
9 the Laredo Diocese forward in faith, hope, and charity; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
12 Legislature hereby congratulate Bishop James A. Tamayo on his
13 appointment as the first bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of
14 Laredo and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success
15 and fulfillment in the years to come; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for Bishop Tamayo as an expression of high regard by the
18 Texas House of Representatives.

Raymond

H.R. No. 1304

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1304 was adopted by the House on May 24, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House