

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 48

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than 140 years, Immaculate Conception
2 Church has played a central role in the life of Rio Grande City; and

3 WHEREAS, The Oblates of Mary Immaculate have served the
4 Catholic population of the community since 1853, but no clergy were
5 stationed in the community until the creation of a parish there in
6 1880; Father J. M. Jaffres, O.M.I., became the first resident
7 pastor, and Father Alexis de Saules, O.M.I., was assigned to assist
8 him; and

9 WHEREAS, A parish school was established in 1884, staffed by
10 members of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word; that order was
11 succeeded by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed
12 Sacrament in 1900, the Sisters of Mercy in the early 1920s, and the
13 School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1985; today the faculty includes
14 both religious and lay members, and the school offers instruction
15 from prekindergarten through the eighth grade; and

16 WHEREAS, The first church building, dedicated to Our Lady of
17 Refuge, was blessed on January 3, 1870, and it served the parish
18 until the present church was constructed in 1967; a number of other
19 building programs have been undertaken at various times to meet the
20 evolving needs of the parishioners; and

21 WHEREAS, Immaculate Conception Church is especially renowned
22 for its grotto, which is a replica of the famous shrine at Lourdes,
23 France; dedicated in 1928, the grotto is built of local stone and
24 petrified wood and incorporates statues of the Virgin Mary and of

1 Bernadette; and

2 WHEREAS, Since its founding, this historic church has
3 benefited from the guidance of many devoted clergymen, and today
4 the congregation is ably led by the Reverend Jean Olivier M. Sambu;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Countless area residents have looked to Immaculate
7 Conception Church for spiritual renewal and enrichment over the
8 years, and its parishioners continue to find comfort, inspiration,
9 and the welcoming embrace of a caring community; now, therefore, be
10 it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
12 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby recognize Immaculate
13 Conception Church for its many decades of dedicated service to its
14 community and extend to all those associated with the church
15 sincere best wishes as they carry forward its mission in the years
16 ahead; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Immaculate Conception Church as an expression of high
19 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.