

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 153

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Roman Catholic Diocese of El Paso on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The diocese was founded on March 3, 1914, by Pope Pius X; it has come to include 55 parishes, 20 missions, 11 Catholic schools, and 22 ministries, all serving the spiritual and temporal needs of more than 680,000 devoted followers in 10 counties in West Texas; the diocese begins a yearlong celebration of its centennial on March 3, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Catholic Church has played a distinguished and enduring role in Texas history; it established the first hospital in El Paso, Hotel Dieu, in 1892, and it is responsible for opening the first three-year nursing school in Texas and for performing the first surgery in the American Southwest; the El Paso Diocese was the first in the United States to be led by a Hispanic bishop, Bishop Flores, who was installed in 1978; and

WHEREAS, The diocese is also the home of the Tigua Indians of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, who have worshipped according to Catholic tradition for more than three centuries and have lovingly preserved the historic town and mission of Ysleta; and

WHEREAS, The diocese has long served as a place of refuge, and it provided for the spiritual care of Catholics fleeing Mexico during the Mexican Revolution and the Cristero movement; and

WHEREAS, A modern force for social justice and a safe haven for refugees, immigrants, and the underserved, the Diocese of El

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Paso has one of the largest legal aid clinics in the Southwest, and its century of good works reflects an abiding respect for the Hispanic Catholic traditions of West Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby commend the Roman Catholic Diocese of El Paso as it celebrates its centennial; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the diocese and its parishioners as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Rodriguez, Seliger, Uresti

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 5, 2013.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate