

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 2393

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, St. Mary's Catholic School in West is celebrating
2 its 115th academic year in 2015, and this is a fitting opportunity
3 to commemorate this venerable institution's contributions to the
4 community; and

5 WHEREAS, St. Mary's Church of the Assumption was organized in
6 West in 1892; members of the congregation wanted to provide a
7 Catholic education for their children, so Father F. G. Sebik
8 arranged with Reverend Mother Florence of the Sisters of Divine
9 Providence in Castroville to have several nuns come to West and open
10 a school; and

11 WHEREAS, In October 1899, Sister Mary M. Pelagia and three
12 other nuns began teaching children of the parish in a small building
13 that included three classrooms as well as living quarters for the
14 sisters; many of the students lived too far away to walk to school
15 every day, so St. Mary's began to accept boarding students, and
16 enrollment grew so quickly that by 1909, the school was forced to
17 turn boarders away; and

18 WHEREAS, A brick schoolhouse, with six classrooms and an
19 auditorium, was constructed in 1917, and by 1928, seven nuns were
20 teaching at St. Mary's; over the years, the facility continued to
21 grow and develop as the enrollment and the staff increased, and new
22 extracurricular programs provided increasingly diverse activities
23 for the students; the school was accredited by the Texas Catholic
24 Conference in 1967; and

1 WHEREAS, Although the last Sister of Divine Providence left
2 the school in 1984, St. Mary's Catholic School remains a vital part
3 of the community; today, it serves more than 140 students from
4 prekindergarten through the eighth grade, helping them to reach
5 their highest potential spiritually, academically, physically, and
6 socially; and

7 WHEREAS, The ongoing commitment and mutual support of the
8 school's teachers, parents, and students ensure that the historic
9 tradition of Catholic education continues to thrive in West; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the 115th academic year of
13 St. Mary's Catholic School and extend to the school's staff and
14 students sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for St. Mary's Catholic School as an expression of high
18 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.