

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 290**

**WHEREAS,** The Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas is celebrating the 125th anniversary of its founding in 2015; and

**WHEREAS,** In response to the growth of the Catholic population in Texas, Pope Leo XIII created the Diocese of Dallas in 1890; Thomas Francis Brennan of Tipperary, Ireland, was appointed as the first bishop over an area that encompassed most of North and West Texas; and

**WHEREAS,** Through the years, the Diocese of Dallas has evolved to accommodate the changing needs of its parishioners, with the establishment of such institutions as the *Texas Catholic* diocesan newspaper, Holy Trinity College, and Saint Paul Hospital; in 1902, the Sacred Heart Cathedral was constructed when the congregation outgrew the simple wooden church that had previously served as the seat of the diocese; as the local Catholic population continued to increase, the boundaries were redrawn several times to form the Dioceses of El Paso, Amarillo, Austin, San Angelo, Fort Worth, and Tyler, and today, the Diocese of Dallas covers an area of 7,523 square miles, including Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro, and Rockwall Counties, and it is one of the fastest growing dioceses in the country; and

**WHEREAS,** Since 2007, the faithful of the diocese have benefited from the wise and compassionate oversight of Bishop Kevin Joseph Farrell, who is leading an effort not only to increase parish support for families and children but also to advance work on restoration of the landmark Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe; and

**WHEREAS**, Countless Texans have looked to the Catholic Diocese of Dallas for spiritual guidance over the last 125 years, and its member parishes continue to be a positive and vital force in the communities they serve; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas and extend to its parishioners and clergy sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the diocese as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Huffines

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 4, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate