

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 174

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Monsignor James Bridges of St. Stephen's Catholic  
2 Church in Midland retired from the pastorate on June 25, 2017,  
3 having dedicated an extraordinary 55 years of service to the  
4 Diocese of San Angelo; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Lamesa, James Bridges accepted the call  
6 to the priesthood at the age of 22, becoming the first priest  
7 ordained in the diocese on May 29, 1962; assigned to Sacred Heart  
8 Catholic Church in Abilene as an assistant pastor in 1963, he  
9 assumed the pulpit of that church as pastor in 1970 and was  
10 subsequently posted to St. Mary's in Odessa and then to  
11 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, also in Odessa; in 1996, he began his work  
12 as the founding pastor of St. Stephen's Catholic Church, where he  
13 ministered with compassion and wisdom until his retirement; and

14 WHEREAS, Known as a spiritual leader of great vision and  
15 initiative, Monsignor Bridges was instrumental in the founding of  
16 several parishes; he also worked tirelessly in behalf of the poor,  
17 establishing both Helping Hands of Midland and the West Texas Food  
18 Bank in Odessa; and

19 WHEREAS, Throughout his career in the priesthood, Monsignor  
20 James Bridges has exemplified kindness, humility, and good humor,  
21 as well as joyful service to others, and his legacy will continue to  
22 resonate in his community of faith for many years to come; now,  
23 therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas

1 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby honor Monsignor James  
2 Bridges on his retirement from the pastorate and extend to him  
3 sincere best wishes for continued happiness and fulfillment; and,  
4 be it further

5         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
6 prepared for Monsignor Bridges as an expression of high regard by  
7 the Texas House of Representatives.