

By: Collier

H.R. No. 81

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The members of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
2 in Fort Worth are celebrating the 95th anniversary of their
3 church's founding on January 19, 2025; and

4 WHEREAS, In January 1929, Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
5 was established by Father Narcissus Denis of the Josephite Fathers;
6 masses were initially held in a private residence, and parishioners
7 eventually began gathering in a chapel that was converted from an
8 old drugstore; later that year, a new facility was built, and by
9 1935, the parish had grown to a membership of 150; the church served
10 as the first Catholic school for African American children in Fort
11 Worth and as a community center for Black Catholics in the area, and
12 in 1941 it opened the St. Veronica's mission in the city's Lake Como
13 area; in 1952, Our Mother of Mercy moved to its permanent location
14 on East Terrell Avenue; after serving for nearly eight decades, the
15 Josephite Fathers were later succeeded by the Society of the Divine
16 Word; and

17 WHEREAS, Known as the only African American Catholic Church
18 in Tarrant County and in the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, Our
19 Mother of Mercy is home to a multiethnic congregation, and it has
20 produced leaders in a number of fields, both locally and
21 nationally; moreover, it was designated as the principal church for
22 the 2015-2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy, and over the years, its members
23 have established a variety of commendable programs, including
24 music, youth, bereavement, and guardian ministries, services for

1 those who are homebound or ill, and the Society of St. Vincent
2 DePaul, which provides emergency aid to the community; and

3 WHEREAS, Countless Fort Worth residents have looked to Our
4 Mother of Mercy Catholic Church for spiritual guidance over the
5 years, and it is a pleasure to join in honoring the parish at this
6 special time in its rich history; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
8 Legislature hereby commemorate the 95th anniversary of Our Mother
9 of Mercy Catholic Church and extend to its members sincere best
10 wishes for the future.