

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 125**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Most Reverend Bishop Joe Steve Vásquez, who was recently appointed to serve as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston by Pope Francis; and

**WHEREAS**, A native of Stamford, Texas, Archbishop-Designate Vásquez has served the Catholic Diocese of Austin since 2010; he earned a bachelor's degree in theology from the University of Saint Thomas in Houston and a licentiate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome; and

**WHEREAS**, After his ordination into the priesthood in 1984, he devoted himself as a pastor and parochial vicar at churches in Odessa, Fort Stockton, and San Angelo; in 2002, he received episcopal ordination and was named auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, where he gained significant experience as a vicar, chancellor, moderator, and secretariat director; and

**WHEREAS**, Bishop Vásquez was installed as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Austin in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI, and over the last 15 years, he has faithfully served more than 700,000 Catholics and religious leaders in 25 Central Texas counties; and

**WHEREAS**, This esteemed bishop is returning to the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston on March 25, 2025, to lead a diverse and growing ministry of 1.8 million members and to fulfill his mission to care for families, minister to young adults, and promote the priesthood for future Catholic leaders; he is a highly esteemed and beloved clergyman, and he is truly deserving of special recognition for his life of ministerial service; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby commend Archbishop-Designate Joe Steve Vásquez on his decades of exemplary spiritual leadership and his devoted service to the Diocese of Austin and extend to him best wishes for success in his new role as Archbishop of Galveston-Houston; and, be it further

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

Eckhardt

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 20, 2025.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate