

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONAL RESOLUTION

25-202

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 2, 2024

To recognize St. Francis de Sales Church and the church's 120th year anniversary.

WHEREAS, St. Francis de Sales Church, located at 2101 Rhode Island Avenue N.E. in the Langdon community in Ward 5, is pastored by Father Brian Sanderfoot;

WHEREAS, the first parish church was built in 1908 on the foundation of the Queen's Chapel with history dating back to 1722 for Catholic worship;

WHEREAS, the current church has been on Rhode Island Avenue, N.E. since 1927 when the congregation moved to allow for growth and be closer to the streetcar line;

WHEREAS, for several generations the Sunday morning service has been serviced by dedicated Gospel musicians including long-times friends of the parish and voices drawn from its predominantly African-American congregation;

WHEREAS, from 1946-2008 the church educated thousands of students from both the parish and the larger community at the St. Francis de Sales K-8 Catholic grade school;

WHEREAS, through the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, St. Francis de Sales Church serves more than 100 meals to homebound and other underserved community members, even during recent times of shutdown;

WHEREAS, since the mid-1970s St. Francis de Sales Church has hosted weekly meeting for Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon;

WHEREAS, the St. Francis de Sales Church's food pantry operates monthly and distributes both fresh and frozen food as well as canned and boxed goods to both existing and new clients;

WHEREAS, the annual Christmas celebration committee distributes toys and gift cards to dozens of families with children and senior households; and

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WHEREAS, the St. Francis de Sales Church “Green Team” works closely with the District of Columbia’s Department of Energy and Environment to capture thousands of gallons of rainwater and relieve water runoff into the Anacostia Watershed through its comprehensive system of rainwater and permeable pavement on its campus.

IT IS HEARBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “St. Francis de Sales Church 120th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and celebrates the St. Francis de Sales Church on the occasion of its 120th anniversary for its outstanding commitment, dedication, and service to its members and the community.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.