

Senate Resolution 899

By: Senators Dugan of the 30th, VanNess of the 43rd, Hill of the 4th, Hill of the 6th, Beach of the 21st and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing February 4, 2016, as Catholic Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Catholic presence in Georgia began with missionaries in the 16th century
3 when Franciscan friars maintained a network of mission stations that stretched from St.
4 Augustine to the Savannah River; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah was established on July 3, 1850, with
6 its territory extending over the entire State of Georgia and a large part of Florida, and
7 included a total of about 5,000 Catholics; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Atlanta was established in 1956 by separating the northern 69
9 counties of the state, giving the state two dioceses, Savannah and Atlanta; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1962 the Diocese of Atlanta was elevated to the status of Archdiocese,
11 becoming the center of an Ecclesiastical Province which now covers the States of Georgia,
12 North Carolina, and South Carolina; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the Catholic Church in Georgia continues to serve all 159 counties of the State
14 of Georgia with a Catholic population of over one million members in 171 parishes,
15 missions, and mission stations as well as 12 Catholic high schools and 35 elementary
16 schools, six Catholic health care facilities, Catholic charities centers, and other charitable
17 services, all of which are available to all persons without discrimination; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah have, through their
19 institutions and their people, continued to reach out in service to all people in Georgia,
20 whether newcomers or long established families, from all parts of the world, including
21 refugees, immigrants, and those seeking asylum from religious and political oppression.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
23 commend the many members of the Catholic faith in Georgia for their commitment to the
24 spiritual and temporal welfare of the state and recognize February 4, 2016, as Catholic Day
25 at the state capitol.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
27 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Most Reverend
28 Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta, to the Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer,
29 Bishop of Savannah, and to the Most Reverend Luis Zarama and David Talley, Auxiliary
30 Bishops of Atlanta.