

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX AND REPRESENTATIVES HEBERT AND MYERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Kim Boudreaux on receiving the prestigious Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal and for her leadership of Catholic Charities of Acadiana.

WHEREAS, Kim Boudreaux, the esteemed chief executive officer of Catholic Charities of Acadiana, has been honored with the prestigious Papal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal by His Holiness Pope Francis in recognition of her distinguished service to the Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice is one of the highest honors bestowed by the Pope upon lay women and men, symbolizing a profound commitment to the principles of Christian charity and teaching; and

WHEREAS, the medal was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in July 1888 to commemorate his golden sacerdotal jubilee, with the award becoming a permanent papal distinction in October 1898 and, until 1993, it was the highest honor that could be obtained by women; and

WHEREAS, in December of 2023, Bishop Douglas Deshotel of the Diocese of Lafayette, presented this distinguished award to Kim Boudreaux, highlighting her exemplary dedication to Christian charity and service to the community, and emphasizing her pivotal role in advancing the mission of Catholic Charities of Acadiana; and

WHEREAS, the last time the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice was awarded in the Diocese of Lafayette was in the 1940s, underscoring the rarity and significance of the recognition for this award; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Deshotel nominated Kim for the award; sending the nomination and letter of approval to the Vatican where it was handled by the Secretary of State of the Holy See before being submitted to Pope Francis for his signature; and

WHEREAS, as a young adult, Lafayette native Kim Boudreaux felt a very distinct calling to live a life of service to people that were suffering; and

WHEREAS, Kim sold all her possessions and traveled abroad to work as a missionary spending much time in her 20s in Mexico, India, Thailand, and Malaysia; and

WHEREAS, in fall 2001, Kim returned home to Lafayette and volunteered at Catholic Charities of Acadiana's St. Joseph Diner and "just fell in love with the organization's work"; and

WHEREAS, Kim started with an entry-level job with Catholic Charities of Acadiana when she felt God calling her to serve and decided to stay with the organization as long as God would have her; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Kim began working as the director of Catholic Charities of Acadiana and passionately describes her work as "having the opportunity to show kindness to people in the moments they need it the most"; and

WHEREAS, Kim Boudreaux's leadership at Catholic Charities of Acadiana has been instrumental in organizing charitable efforts, focusing on upholding the sanctity of human life and assisting the most vulnerable members of society; and

WHEREAS, Catholic Charities of Acadiana, under Kim Boudreaux's guidance, has tirelessly carried out the corporal works of mercy, embodying the Gospel's call to compassion and service to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Kim Boudreaux's extensive experience in foreign missions, including her work with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, has enriched her leadership at Catholic Charities of Acadiana and inspired a profound commitment to serving the people of Acadiana; and

WHEREAS, the work of Catholic Charities of Acadiana includes providing essential services to people experiencing homelessness, poverty, or hunger, and its programs include free meals through St. Joseph Diner, emergency shelter, food distribution, free showers and other hygiene services, and financial resources for people in crises; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Douglas Deshotel's nomination of Kim Boudreaux for the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award and Pope Francis' granting of the nomination reflects her outstanding contributions to the community, her steadfast commitment to Christian principles, and her exceptional organizational skills in fulfilling the mission of Catholic Charities of Acadiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend heartfelt congratulations to Kim Boudreaux on her receipt of the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal and commends her for exemplary leadership and dedication to serving the Catholic Church and community through her role as chief executive officer of Catholic Charities of Acadiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the invaluable contributions of Catholic Charities of Acadiana under Kim Boudreaux's guidance, providing essential services and demonstrating unwavering compassion for those in need, is also hereby recognized and recorded for posterity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kim Boudreaux as gratitude to her and the entire staff of Catholic Charities of Acadiana for their selfless work in upholding the principles of Christian charity and making a profound difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout Acadiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES