

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Reverend Borgia Aubespín, SVD, pastor of Holy Family Church in Lawtell, Louisiana, and St. Ann Church in Mallet, Louisiana, upon the fifty-second anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

WHEREAS, Father Borgia Aubespín was born in Prairie Laurent, a small farming community near Opelousas, Louisiana, the second of six children born to Augusta and Ernest Aubespín; and

WHEREAS, as a young boy, Borgia worked on the family farm, attended elementary school in Prairie Laurent, and then attended Holy Ghost High School in Opelousas as there was no high school in the area, getting to and from school with his uncle who worked in the city and would drop Borgia off at school at 5 A.M. and pick him up from school at 5 P.M.; and

WHEREAS, Father John, the priest at Holy Ghost, noticed Borgia waiting in the early mornings for the school doors to open and invited him to wait in the church until school would start; and

WHEREAS, Father John inspired Borgia to seriously consider a vocation in the priesthood, and with advice from Father John, he entered St. Augustine's Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, at the age of fourteen; and

WHEREAS, Father Borgia later attended the Divine Word Seminary in New York in 1954, and professed his first vows in 1956 following his philosophy studies at the Society of the Divine Word Seminary in Techny, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, on February 13, 1965, Father Aubespín was ordained into the priesthood of the religious order of Society of the Divine Word and his priestly ministry began with an assignment to the Philippines which included pastoral duties, serving as the director of the High School, Dean of Student Affairs, and vice president of SVD College-Bahol in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, he returned to the United States of America and became pastor

of St. Francis Catholic Church in Yazoo City, Mississippi, serving there until 1974 when he was assigned as pastor of St. Rose de Lima in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 Father Aubespín was assigned to Immaculate Heart of Mary in Lafayette, Louisiana, and it was during this time that recent canon laws from Rome emphasized the leadership role of the laity and his focus became that of allowing parish leadership to evolve in carrying out the work of lay ministry; and

WHEREAS, in 1986 Father Borgia was elected Provincial of the Southern Province for the SVD order of priests, serving in this capacity until the end of his tenure in 1994 when he was once again assigned to Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church as pastor from 1994 to 2001; and

WHEREAS, Father Aubespín was assigned to St. Mary of the Purification Catholic Church in Houston, Texas, in 2001 and served there until July, 2015, when he was assigned to Holy Family Church in Lawtell, Louisiana and St. Ann Church in Mallet, Louisiana, where he currently serves; and

WHEREAS, Father Borgia Aubespín has been and continues to be an inspiration to so many and has made a lasting impression in the hearts of those who have been fortunate to know and love him, and it is appropriate to recognize and extend to him sincere and heartfelt appreciation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Reverend Borgia Aubespín upon the fifty-second anniversary of his ordination as a priest, does hereby recognize the good works and service that Father Aubespín has given to numerous churches, and particularly his wonderful service as pastor of Holy Family Church in Lawtell, Louisiana and St. Ann Church in Mallet, Louisiana, does hereby express gratitude for the many lives that Father Aubespín has touched during his ministry, and does hereby extend to him best wishes for health, happiness, and God's richest blessings in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Father Borgia Aubespín.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE