

## House Resolution 50EX

By: Representative Stephens of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Post 2

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church on the occasion of its 130th  
2 anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church is the oldest black parish in Georgia  
4 and the second oldest existing parish in Savannah; and

5 WHEREAS, named for St. Benedict the Black, patron saint to African Americans, the parish  
6 was created when two Benedictine monks established a monastery in 1874 and a church,  
7 originally situated at East Broad and Harris Street. In 1889, a new St. Benedict was built  
8 four blocks south on East Broad at Gordon, its present location; and

9 WHEREAS, from its humble beginnings in this coastal city, the St. Benedict the Moor  
10 Catholic Church has grown and prospered and is now one of the leading churches in  
11 Chatham County; and

12 WHEREAS, during the struggles and triumphs of its 130 years of existence, the St. Benedict  
13 the Moor Catholic Church has been led by many able and dedicated priests who have offered  
14 wise and dedicated leadership and service to the congregation and to the community; and

15 WHEREAS, inspired by the rich heritage of his church and driven by his own devotion and  
16 faithfulness, the present priest, The Reverend Father Desmond C. Ohankwere, has built upon  
17 the foundation laid by his predecessors and has with unfailing dedication led his  
18 congregation to great heights of achievement and hopefulness; and

19 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that the St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church be  
20 appropriately recognized as a beacon of hope and light that for 130 years has guided the way  
21 for so many who otherwise may have been lost.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
2 the members of this body commend the St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church on the  
3 occasion of its 130th anniversary.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
5 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the St. Benedict the Moor  
6 Catholic Church.