

## House Resolution 416

By: Representative Knox of the 24<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 27, 2007, as "Catholic Day at the Capitol" in the State of Georgia; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, over the course of two millennia, Catholics have traveled to every corner of the  
4 Earth, proudly carrying the light of Christ into the world; and

5 WHEREAS, with more than 1 billion recorded members world-wide, the Roman Catholic  
6 Church is the largest religious organization in the world, constituting more than one-sixth of  
7 the world's population; and

8 WHEREAS, just as fingerprints make each person unique, God has filled the Earth with  
9 people of every variety, giving each one their own special set of talents; and

10 WHEREAS, as Catholics in Georgia and around the world are entrusted with a sacred duty  
11 to teach, heal, and serve their fellow human beings, the Archdiocese of Atlanta has chosen  
12 the inspirational theme, "We are the Hands of Christ," for the 2007 Archbishop's Annual  
13 Appeal; and

14 WHEREAS, the Catholic presence in Georgia began in 1790 with a simple log church in  
15 Locust Grove, Georgia, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah was established in  
16 1850 with the faithful support of approximately 5,000 Catholics extending over the entire  
17 State of Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Atlanta was established in 1956 as a separate diocese, and in  
19 1962 the Diocese of Atlanta was elevated to the status of Archdiocese, becoming the center  
20 of an Ecclesiastical Province which now covers the states of Georgia, North Carolina, and  
21 South Carolina; and

1 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta now has a Catholic population of 650,000 through  
2 82 parishes, 13 missions, seven high schools, 20 elementary school, and two Catholic  
3 hospitals, all available to all persons without discrimination; and

4 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Savannah now comprises 90 counties in south Georgia, serving  
5 a Catholic population of approximately 75,398 Catholics in 52 parishes and 26 missions and  
6 mission stations as well as five Catholic high schools and 17 elementary schools, three  
7 Catholic hospitals, a residential child care facility, and a residential maternity facility; and

8 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah have, through its  
9 institutions and people, blessed the state of Georgia with innumerable charitable services  
10 open to all the people of this state; and

11 WHEREAS, as hands of Christ, Catholics are called upon to make the fullest use of the gifts  
12 that the Lord has given them and to serve others with the love and respect that all human  
13 beings deserve.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
15 the member of this body recognize February 27, 2007, as "Catholic Day at the Capitol" in  
16 the State of Georgia and commend the members of the Catholic faith for their spiritual  
17 devotion and diligent service to the community.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
19 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Most Reverend Wilton  
20 D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta, and to the Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland, Bishop of  
21 Savannah.