

Senate Resolution 1209

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th and Murphy of the 27th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 10, 2010, as Catholic Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Catholic presence in Georgia began with Spanish missionaries in the 16th  
3 Century, and for many years these Franciscan friars maintained a network of mission stations  
4 that stretched from St. Augustine to the Savannah River; and

5 WHEREAS, the Catholic presence in Georgia grew with a simple log church in Locust  
6 Grove, Georgia, where the faithful began worshiping in 1790; and

7 WHEREAS, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah was established on July 3, 1850, with  
8 its territory extending over the entire State of Georgia, and included a total of about 5,000  
9 Catholics; and

10 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Atlanta was established in 1956 by separating the northern 69  
11 counties of the state, giving the state two dioceses, Savannah and Atlanta; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1962 the Diocese of Atlanta was elevated to the status of Archdiocese,  
13 becoming the center of an Ecclesiastical Province which now covers the States of Georgia,  
14 North Carolina, and South Carolina; and

15 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Savannah now covers 90 counties in South Georgia, serving a  
16 population of approximately 80,000 Catholics in 54 parishes and 25 missions and mission  
17 stations; and

18 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Savannah also serves five Catholic high schools, 16 elementary  
19 schools, two Catholic hospitals, and many other social service facilities, all of which are  
20 available to all persons without discrimination; and

21 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta now has a Catholic population of nearly 850,000  
22 with 87 parishes and 12 missions; and

23 WHEREAS, there are four Catholic high schools, 21 elementary schools, and two Catholic  
24 hospitals available to all persons without discrimination in the Archdiocese of Atlanta; and

25 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah have, through their  
26 institutions and their people, reached out to serve all people in Georgia, whether newcomers  
27 or long established families, from all parts of the world, including refugees, immigrants, and  
28 those seeking asylum from religious and political oppression.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
30 commend the many members of the Catholic faith in Georgia for their commitment to the  
31 spiritual and temporal welfare of the state and recognize March 10, 2010, as Catholic Day  
32 at the state capitol.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
34 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to members of the public and press.