

Senate Resolution 780

By: Senators McKoon of the 29th and James of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7, 2012, as Catholic Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

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

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

8 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Atlanta was established in 1956 by separating the northern 69
9 counties of the state from the rest, giving the state two dioceses, Savannah and Atlanta; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1962 the Diocese of Atlanta was elevated to the status of archdiocese,
11 becoming the center of an ecclesiastical province which now covers the states of Georgia,
12 North Carolina, and South Carolina; and

13 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah serve all 159 counties
14 of the State of Georgia, serving a Catholic population of nearly one million Catholics in 166
15 parishes and missions as well as 47 elementary and secondary schools and six health care
16 facilities, which are available to all persons without discrimination; and

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

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE that the members of this body
22 commend the many members of the Catholic faith in Georgia for their commitment to the

23 spiritual and temporal welfare of the state and recognize February 7, 2012, as Catholic Day
24 at the state capitol.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
26 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory,
27 Archbishop of Atlanta, to Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer, Bishop of Savannah, and
28 to Most Reverend Bishop Luis Raphael Zarama, Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta.