

## House Resolution 63

By: Representatives Harrell of the 106<sup>th</sup>, Pak of the 108<sup>th</sup>, Riley of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Marin of the 96<sup>th</sup>, and Holcomb of the 81<sup>st</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing January 29, 2013, 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 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 included 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, 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 1 million Catholics in  
15 parishes and 37 missions and mission stations as well as nine Catholic high schools and  
16 elementary schools, four Catholic hospitals, and a residential childcare facility, all of which  
17 are available to all persons without discrimination; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah have, through their  
19 institutions and their people, reached out to serve all people in Georgia, whether newcomers  
20 or long established families, from all parts of the world, including refugees, immigrants, and  
21 those seeking asylum from religious and political oppression.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
23 the members of this body commend the many members of the Catholic faith in Georgia for  
24 their commitment to the spiritual and temporal welfare of the state and recognize January 29,  
25 2013, as Catholic Day at the state capitol.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
27 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Most Reverend Wilton D.  
28 Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta, Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer, Bishop of Savannah,  
29 Most Reverend Luis Raphael Zarama, Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta, and Most Reverend  
30 David P. Talley, Auxiliary Bishop Elect of Atlanta.