

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY REPRESENTATIVES BOURRIAQUE, HEBERT, AND JACOB LANDRY AND
SENATOR HENSGENS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Reverend Louis J. Richard on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, Reverend Louis J. Richard was born on Christmas Day 1955 to Joyce and A.J. Richard of Abbeville, Louisiana; he grew up with one older brother, Russell J. Richard, and attended Mt. Carmel Elementary School in Abbeville; and

WHEREAS, as an eighth-grader, Louis felt a calling toward the priesthood, so he entered Immaculata Minor Seminary in Lafayette, Louisiana; he graduated high school from Immaculate in 1973 and began his undergraduate studies at St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana; he graduated in 1977 with a double major in philosophy and psychology; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Richard began graduate theological studies at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, where he earned a master's degree in theology; he returned home and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette on August 7, 1981; due to a major restoration of the Cathedral that year, he was given the privilege of being ordained in his home parish, the beautiful, historic St. Mary Magdalen Church in Abbeville; and

WHEREAS, upon Ordination in 1981, Reverend Richard was assigned as Parochial Vicar at St. Genevieve Church in Lafayette, serving with his dear friend Father Floyd Calais; after two years, Bishop Frey appointed him Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Lafayette, a position he held for five years; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Bishop Harry Flynn appointed Reverend Richard to his first pastorate, St. Joseph Church in Milton, Louisiana; during his ten-year tenure, he oversaw the growth of the community and the construction of the new St. Joseph Catholic Church; he

was asked by then-Bishop Edward O'Donnell in 1997 to become pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Crowley and he was appointed in 2002 by Bishop O'Donnell to become the pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Broussard, where during a fruitful twelve years, he oversaw the extensive expansion of the church and the St. Cecilia School campus; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Bishop Michael Jarrell invited Reverend Richard to return as pastor of his home community and church, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church; there he oversaw the acquisition of Mount Carmel Elementary to re-create one of the few Pre-K through 12th grade Catholic schools in the Diocese; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Louis J. Richard is a truly inspiring individual who is most deserving of the highest recognition for his lifelong service of his faith and his community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Reverend Louis J. Richard on the occasion of his retirement and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors for many years to come.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE