



HR0432

LRB102 19713 ECR 28487 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, St. Francis Xavier Church has been described as standing majestically as the focal point for people entering Jerseyville; and

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WHEREAS, On July 4, 2021, the parish celebrated 150 years with their sesquicentennial jubilee; and

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WHEREAS, The first Catholic Mass in Jerseyville was held in the William Shepherd home in the fall of 1841; Fathers Carroll and Hamilton of the Alton Diocese, which included Jersey County, occasionally visited Jerseyville and held Masses in private homes and the courthouse; and

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WHEREAS, In 1849, it was decided there was a need for a Catholic church in Jerseyville; it was not until 1857 that a small frame church was erected, which was dedicated by Bishop Henry Damian Junker of the Alton Diocese; and

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WHEREAS, In the 1860s, a rectory was built, which later became the home for the Dominican Sisters who staffed the school for over 100 years, and ground was also purchased for a parish cemetery; and

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WHEREAS, In 1868, a cornerstone was laid for a larger

1 church, which is the current St. Francis Xavier Church; the
2 main body of the church was to be 55 by 100 feet; the inside
3 height of the ceiling in the center of the nave is 43 feet and
4 the side aisles are 25 feet; William Embly and Sons were the
5 architects of the Gothic style church; the body was made of
6 brick made in Jerseyville, and the stone trimmings came from
7 the Grafton quarries; the roof was covered with slate
8 shingles; the cost to build the church was \$25,000 and took
9 three years to complete; and

10 WHEREAS, On July 4, 1871, the church was dedicated by
11 Bishop Peter J. Baltus of the Alton Diocese; and

12 WHEREAS, Father Thomas Mangan became the first resident
13 priest of St. Francis Xavier Church, and he remained until
14 1860; and

15 WHEREAS, The celebratory 150th anniversary Mass was held
16 on July 4, 2021 and included a keepsake program with pictures,
17 history, and holy cards; the Vatican also sent an Apostolic
18 Blessing from Pope Francis; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we congratulate St. Francis Xavier Church of Jerseyville on
22 its 150th anniversary; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the parish as an expression of our esteem and
3 respect.