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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate His Eminence Blase Joseph Cupich, the archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, on his elevation to the rank of Cardinal Priest; and

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WHEREAS, A grandson of Croatian immigrants, Cardinal Cupich was born on March 19, 1949 in Omaha, Nebraska; he was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood on August 16, 1975; and

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WHEREAS, Cardinal Cupich attended Saint John Vianney Seminary at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1971; he then studied in Rome at the Pontifical North American College and Pontifical Gregorian University, earning a bachelor's degree in sacred theology in 1974 and a Master of Arts in Theology in 1975; he completed his graduate studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he obtained a Doctor of Sacred Theology in 1987; and

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WHEREAS, From 1975 to 1998, Cardinal Cupich served in different pastoral, leadership and instructional capacities, including as associate pastor at Saint Margaret Mary Church in Omaha; instructor at Paul VI High School in Omaha; Director of

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1 the Office for Divine Worship and as the Chairman of the  
2 Commission on Youth in the Archdiocese of Omaha; instructor of  
3 the Continuing Education of Priests Program and Diaconate  
4 Formation at Creighton University in Omaha; pastor of St.  
5 Mary's Church in Bellevue, Nebraska; President-Rector of the  
6 Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio; and pastor of  
7 Saint Robert Bellarmine Church in Omaha; and

8 WHEREAS, On July 6, 1998, Pope John Paul II appointed  
9 Cardinal Cupich as the Bishop of Rapid City, South Dakota, and  
10 after he received episcopal consecration from Bishop Harry  
11 Flynn of St. Paul on September 21, 1998, he served the diocese  
12 of Rapid City from 1998 to 2010; and

13 WHEREAS, On June 30, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI appointed  
14 Cardinal Cupich as the Bishop of Spokane, a role in which he  
15 served as part of the American episcopacy of the Roman Catholic  
16 Church; and

17 WHEREAS, An accomplished scholar and theologian, Cardinal  
18 Cupich was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Scripture  
19 Translation and was the author of "The New Roman Missal: A Time  
20 of Renewal", a work that placed the new English translation of  
21 the Roman Missal into the Catholic Church tradition of  
22 liturgical renewal; and

1           WHEREAS, On November 18, 2014, Cardinal Cupich was  
2 installed as the archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese  
3 of Chicago, succeeding Cardinal Francis George; and

4           WHEREAS, On July 7, 2016, Pope Francis named Blase Joseph  
5 Cupich a member of the Congregation for Bishops, and on  
6 November 19, 2016, he elevated him to the rank of Cardinal  
7 Priest and he became a member of the College of Cardinals; and

8           WHEREAS, In November of 2016, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and First  
9 Lady Amy Rule led a delegation of more than 80 distinguished  
10 civic, faith, business, and political leaders, as well as  
11 students from two Chicago high schools, to Rome to honor  
12 Cardinal Cupich and to take part in his elevation ceremony; and

13           WHEREAS, A dedicated spiritual father and steadfast  
14 leader, Cardinal Cupich deserves our admiration and respect for  
15 his outstanding service, leadership and for his many  
16 contributions to our State and our nation; therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
19 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we congratulate His Eminence  
20 Blase Joseph Cupich on his elevation to the rank of Cardinal  
21 Priest, and express our sincere appreciation to him for his  
22 inspirational and extraordinary life, service and

1 accomplishments; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to Cardinal Cupich as a symbol of our esteem and good  
4 wishes.