

STATE OF KANSAS

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5059

A RESOLUTION congratulating the St. Columbkille Parish of Blaine, Kansas, on its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, St. Columbkille Parish in Blaine, Kansas, celebrated its centennial anniversary on September 6, 1981; and

WHEREAS, St. Columbkille Parish was settled by direct colonization due to the efforts of Father T. Ambrose Butler. He organized the St. Louis Colonization Board of the Irish Catholic Benevolent Union on January 14, 1877, at St. Patrick's Hall in St. Louis, Missouri. Irish Catholics living in St. Louis were urged to emigrate to Pottawatomie County, Kansas, where the Board had purchased 12,000 acres of land from the Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. In the spring of 1878 the new settlers, from all walks of life, came to Pottawatomie County. Later, other Irish Catholics from other parts of the country, came as well; and

WHEREAS, Father Bernard Hudson, the first resident priest, supervised the building of the first frame church in 1881; and

WHEREAS, The present red brick Gothic-style church was started in 1906 and finished in 1908, with Father Patrick Smith as the resident pastor; and

WHEREAS, A grade school and high school were built in 1918-1919 and classes were taught by the Benedictine Sisters from Atchison, Kansas. It was destroyed by fire on December 7, 1927. It was immediately rebuilt and dedicated in 1928. The school was closed in 1965, but the parish church still flourishes; and

WHEREAS, Four native sons became priests: Father W. H. McCormick ordained 1901, Father Wm. G. O'Shea ordained 1938, Father John F. O'Shea, S.J., ordained 1952 and Father Leonard L. Moran ordained 1954; and

WHEREAS, Fifteen native daughters became nuns: Sister Philomena Pendergast and Sister Ferdinand Eisenbeis joined the Sisters of Charity, Leavenworth, Kansas; Sister Agatha Cummings joined the Presentation Order, San Francisco, California; Sister M. Ellen Wagner, Sisters Isadore, Hermina, Hyacinth and Pelagia Wapp, Sisters Stephen and Richard Pendergast, Sisters Geneva and Hanora Eisenbeis, Sister Jeremy Dempsey and Sister Eleanor Suther all joined the Benedictine Sisters, Atchison, Kansas; and Sister Betty Suther joined the St. Joseph Sisters, Concordia, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, On September 6, 1981, the Centennial Celebration was held with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Ignatius J. Strecker with Father Leonard Moran and Father Wm. O'Shea as con-celebrants. A parade was held with Governor John Carlin, Representative Lloyd Polson and Senator Donald Montgomery among those present. After the festivities, a dinner was served to over 1,000 people; and