

Resolution Number 67
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH 150TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH is celebrating its Sesquicentennial anniversary as a parish at Compton and Meramec in the Dutchtown neighborhood of South St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH was founded at the invitation of Archbishop Peter Richard Kenrick by Fr. Servace Altmicks, OSF and three other Franciscan Friars from Saxony, Germany to serve the German and English speaking families -- mostly farmers -- living in the Dutchtown area between Sts. Peter & Paul in Soulard and St. Bonaface in Carondelet, but today serves many families of great diversity, including immigrants from throughout the world in an urban setting; and

WHEREAS, the ambitious mission of SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH today includes recognition of its place in the community as the "cornerstone in our changing neighborhood of south St. Louis" and the work of the parish reflects the call of St. Francis of Assisi to "rebuild my Church" and the simplicity of preaching the true gospel as St. Anthony of Padua did in 13th century Italy; and

WHEREAS, the first Mass of the parish is chronicled as occurring on February 5, 1863 in a small frame house donated by parishioner John Withnell, and a permanent church in Gothic style, composed of limestone quarried from down on S. Broadway off Meramec, was then built with the cornerstone blessed in 1864; and

WHEREAS, the "new" current church building was constructed in Romanesque style with twin spires that can be seen for miles atop its hill at Meramec and Michigan, boasting magnificent stained glass windows by Emil Frei, including the marvel of modern electric lights outlining the sacristy on special occasions, with a cornerstone laid on July 4, 1908, and opening in 1910 with a seating capacity of 1400 (double that of the old church) and costing \$175,000; and

WHEREAS, the religious mettle of the parish has been tested on numerous occasions, including the great fire of April 28, 1994, when lightning struck the church, setting the roof on fire; the building survived the blaze and subsequent water damage, and restoration was immediately undertaken at the direction of Cardinal Justin Rigali who witnessed the fire; Christmas Mass was celebrated in the church building in 1995 and full restoration was complete in April 1996; and

WHEREAS, members of the parish have always taken upon themselves the corporal works of caring for their neighbors through such efforts as the St. Vincent DePaul Society, food panty, and other programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the 150th year anniversary of ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH and to thank the members of this historic Church for their many contributions to the City of St. Louis, and we direct the Clerk of the Board to prepare a commemorative copy of this Resolution to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and placed deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 14th day of June, 2013 by:

Honorable Craig Schmid, 20th Ward Alderman
Honorable Alfred Wessels, 13th Ward Alderman
Honorable Shane Cohn, 25th Ward Alderman
Honorable Thomas Albert Villa, 11th Ward Alderman
Honorable Kenneth Ortmann, 9th Ward Alderman

Adopted this the 14th day of June, 2013 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen