

RESOLUTION NUMBER 202
100th Anniversary of St. Roch Church

WHEREAS, the first homes in Skinker DeBaliviere were built in 1908. Just three years later, some of the early residents formed the parish of St. Roch; and

WHEREAS, the residents met in a storefront on Kingsbury and by 1921 they were able to lay the cornerstone on the magnificent edifice that is a center of the neighborhood. The church and its school served the large neighborhood Catholic population; and

WHEREAS, the church became a critical linchpin of the neighborhood after integration and subsequent white flight. Although some parishioners joined that flight, a strong coterie remained loyal to parish and neighborhood and helped to stabilize the area. The school expanded and opened to non-Catholics. The church and its pastors worked with Grace Methodist and Delmar Baptist and Washington University to create the council and help fund it and to provide a base for a myriad of neighborhood activities; and

WHEREAS, today, the church and school remain vital to Skinker DeBaliviere. After one hundred years, the church and its parishioners are at the heart of what this neighborhood is; and

WHEREAS, St. Roch parishioners and school alumni will be participating in activities marking this major milestone. On Sunday, September 25, 2011 a special mass will be said with the archbishop in attendance. A celebratory dinner will follow at the Chase. There will be a video capturing the impact of St. Roch and a book to be forthcoming later. A joyous celebration to the members of St. Roch and to its pastor of 30 years, Monsignor Sal Polizzi; and

WHEREAS, St. Roch has educated thousands of St. Louis's children and has been a setting for thousands of baptisms, weddings, First Communions, Confirmations and funerals; and

WHEREAS, St. Roch is a source of spiritual solace for Catholics and non-Catholics alike; it is dependable, unshakeable pillar of the neighborhood during turbulent times.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, that we wish to recognize St. Roch Church on the occasion of their One Hundredth Anniversary, that we encourage them to continue in their commitment to the community, and we wish it many more years of success; and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of this proceeding and to prepare a commemorative copy for presentation to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced on the 23rd day of September, 2011 by:

Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this the 23rd day of September, 2011 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen