

RESOLUTION NUMBER 305
The Centennial Celebration of St. Raymond's Maronite Cathedral

WHEREAS, St. Raymond's Church was founded in 1912-1913, the parishioners, families, and friends of the St. Raymond's Maronite Cathedral will celebrate its 100 year anniversary; and

WHEREAS, in the beginning, St. Raymond's was considered to be a small dying parish. The Church was a four family flat in need of serious repairs and there was no priest. But with the dedication and commitment of the community, the ladies of the church, and remaining parish members, things began to change; and

WHEREAS, for the first time in twenty-three years, a Maronite priest was sent to serve his people. In 1967, Fr. Robert Shaheen went to work to rebuild the parish of St. Raymond's; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1975, the new St. Raymond's with over 900 parishioners were joined by the Most Reverend Francis M. Zayek, Bishop of St. Maron, and 20 concelebrating Clergy at a dedication ceremony. They had achieved what many said would be impossible; and

WHEREAS, in 1977 a new rectory was added, and on November 16th, 1979, a new parish center, the Cedars, named in honor of Mary the Mother of God, was dedicated; and

WHEREAS, in the history of St. Raymond's Cathedral, every Patriarch of modern times came from Lebanon to visit and celebrate holy Mass; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Maronite Heritage Center was opened for all people to come and study the Maronite history and culture, a long-time vision of Bishop Robert Shaheen; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen is pleased to join Rector Gary George, parishioners and guests of St. Raymond's Maronite Cathedral on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the Centennial of St. Raymond's Maronite Cathedral and we direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to further prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 10th day of February, 2012 by:

Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward
Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Adopted this the 10th day of February, 2012 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen