

HOUSE RESOLUTION 73

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Father D. Bruce Nieli of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend D. Bruce Nieli, C.S.P., is one such individual who has dedicated his life in service to the Catholic priesthood; and

WHEREAS, a Paulist priest and a national Catholic evangelist and missionary, Father Nieli has been based in Memphis since February of 1998; and

WHEREAS, his ministry in Memphis has included service at two Paulist parishes, St. Patrick's and St. Augustine's, an inner-city neighborhood outreach, and ministries to the African-American and Latino communities; and

WHEREAS, widely admired for his tireless dedication to such important concerns as immigration, health care, and anti-poverty outreach, Father Nieli's commitment to social justice also includes ministry to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and the Tennessee Death Row in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Father Nieli was ordained as a Paulist priest in 1973 in New York City and received a Master's Degree in Pastoral Counseling from Iona College in 1979; from 1972 until 1979, he served on the parish staff at St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan, where he became involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal; and

WHEREAS, he was the founding director of the Center for Spiritual Development of the Archdiocese of New York, serving from 1979 until 1983 before moving Texas, where he worked in evangelization in several dioceses and served on the state level for ten years; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Father Nieli became the Director of Evangelization for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, a position he held until 1996; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded author, Father Nieli was the principal writer of "Mission: Texas," the Texas Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter on evangelization; the draft writer for "Papal Talk on Parish Life" at Plaza Guadalupe, San Antonio, Texas; the co-author of a draft for "Thy Kingdom Come: A Manual For Diocesan Evangelization Staff," Committee on Evangelization of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; the author of the column, "Praying with the Church," which appeared in several diocesan newspapers from 1986-1993; and an editorial writer for *Catholic Spirit*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Austin, from 1986 to 1989; and

WHEREAS, as Associate Pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Memphis, Father Nieli's great capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God has enriched the lives of the church and community he serves; and

WHEREAS, throughout his long career as a Paulist Father, Reverend D. Bruce Nieli, C.S.P., has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and his parishioners; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize and commend Father D. Bruce Nieli for his abiding commitment to the principles of faith and service to humanity and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.