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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are honored to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Our Lady of the Wayside Parish in Arlington Heights; and

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WHEREAS, Our Lady of the Wayside Parish was founded in 1952 when the Reverend Harold T. O'Hara was assigned by Archbishop Samuel Cardinal Strich to establish a second parish in Arlington Heights; with 250 families under his guidance and a large tract of land on the corner of Mitchell and Park, the newly appointed Pastor O'Hara wisely chose to link his fledgling parish to the antique past by naming it Our Lady of the Wayside; and

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WHEREAS, The devotion to Our Lady under this title dates back to about the 5th century; Mary's image was frescoed on a piece of stone taken from an ancient Roman building; the stone was moved from one road to another road, hence the name, Our Lady of the Wayside; and

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WHEREAS, Anchored deeply in the history and devotions of the Roman Catholic Church, the physical development of Our Lady of the Wayside Parish reflects the history and social development of the post-World War II Catholic Church in the American suburbs; and

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WHEREAS, Mass was first celebrated in July 1952 in the small gym of the old South Junior High School; May 24, 1953, the feast of Our Lady of the Wayside, was appropriately chosen to break ground for the new parish building that was to be a combination school, church, convent, and meeting hall; on September 10, 1954 the school opened with 300 students; by 1956, 1000 students filled the school to capacity; and

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WHEREAS, The parish celebrated its first Mass in the

1 permanent church on Sunday, September 29, 1957; the new  
2 church was built in a modified Romanesque style with an  
3 exterior of Indiana limestone to conform with the school and  
4 the convent; and

5 WHEREAS, Our Lady of the Wayside Parish has been an  
6 invaluable member of the Arlington Heights community for the  
7 past 50 years; it continues to provide many outreach programs  
8 that benefit the community, including a weekly homeless  
9 shelter, senior ministries, St. Vincent DePaul Society, and  
10 many youth activities; currently, more than 3,000 families  
11 are registered to the parish with more than 750 students  
12 educated at the school; and

13 WHEREAS, To commemorate the golden anniversary of Our  
14 Lady of the Wayside, the parish will host a year-long  
15 celebration under the theme, "Remember, Celebrate, and  
16 Believe"; the parish's anniversary year will kick-off on June  
17 30, 2002, which marks the 50th anniversary of the date Father  
18 O'Hara was assigned to start Our Lady of the Wayside; it will  
19 be a year-long celebration culminating in the closing  
20 celebration Mass with Cardinal Francis George on May 24,  
21 2003, the Feast of Our Lady of the Wayside; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-  
23 SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
24 congratulate Our Lady of the Wayside Parish on the  
25 celebration of its 50th anniversary of service and  
26 contribution to the residents of Arlington Heights; and be it  
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
29 presented to the Reverend Vincent Costello, Pastor of Our  
30 Lady of the Wayside Parish, as an expression of our esteem.