

By Senator Altman

24-00880-12

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing January 29 through February 4, 2012, as "Catholic Schools Week" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, the tradition of Catholic schools dates back to 1606, when Franciscans opened a Catholic school to teach reading, mathematics, and the principles of the Catholic religion in St. Augustine, and

WHEREAS, this Catholic school was followed by other missions established by Spanish missionaries long before the settlement at Jamestown, Virginia, and before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, and

WHEREAS, today, 82,464 students attend 213 Catholic elementary and high schools throughout this state, which employ 6,669 professional educators, and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Florida states that all persons have inalienable rights, among them the rights to pursue happiness and to be rewarded for industry, and recognizes the education of children as a fundamental value of all Floridians, and

WHEREAS, Catholic schools provide young people with a strong foundation of faith, values, and academic skills needed to become responsible citizens of our state and nation, and

WHEREAS, the Catholic Church views parents as the primary educators of their children and parental involvement as playing a major role in their children's education, and

WHEREAS, Catholic schools believe that teaching morals and values is paramount in the complete education of the student,

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30 since every member of society continually makes moral decisions
31 and value judgments, and

32 WHEREAS, Catholic schools educate many students of other
33 faiths, some of whom are economically disadvantaged or have
34 special educational needs, and

35 WHEREAS, Catholic school educators are dedicated to
36 producing faith-filled, academically strong students who also
37 commit themselves to service, and the influences of a Catholic
38 school education – faith, knowledge, morals, and discipline –
39 last a lifetime, and

40 WHEREAS, January 29 through February 4, 2012, has been
41 designated as "Catholic Schools Week," with the theme "Catholic
42 Schools: Faith, Academics, Service" adopted by the National
43 Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States
44 Conference of Catholic Bishops, and

45 WHEREAS, the common good of the state of Florida is
46 strengthened through the existence of Catholic schools, NOW,
47 THEREFORE,

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49 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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51 That January 29 through February 4, 2012, is recognized as
52 "Catholic Schools Week" in the State of Florida.