

By Senator Rouson

19-04020-18

20181944__

Senate Resolution

A resolution expressing appreciation to Father George Clements for his long and productive service as a Roman Catholic priest and for his vision in conceiving the One Church One Child initiative and other life-changing and life-saving programs.

WHEREAS, Father George Clements was born in Chicago in 1932, and, in 1945, became the first black graduate of Chicago's Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary, and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 1957, Father George Clements was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and

WHEREAS, in 1980, while serving as the priest of Holy Angels Catholic Church in Chicago, Father George Clements started the One Church One Child program as a local initiative to find adoptive parents for African-American children, and

WHEREAS, under the inspired leadership of Father George Clements, One Church One Child has expanded nationwide, including One Church One Child of Florida, and more than 100,000 children have been adopted through the program, and

WHEREAS, after retiring from Holy Angels Catholic Church, Father George Clements moved to Washington, D.C., where, in 1994, he started the One Church One Addict program to assist churches nationwide in helping recovering drug addicts through job counseling, spiritual consolation, and professional treatment, and more than 1,000 churches in 35 states now participate in the program, and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Father George Clements started the One

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30 Church One Inmate program, a collaborative effort to help prison
31 inmates and their families as inmates transition from
32 incarceration to life as productive and spiritually healed law-
33 abiding citizens, and

34 WHEREAS, Father George Clements, who himself adopted four
35 children through One Church One Child, is the personification of
36 Jesus Christ's teaching that we embrace "the least of these,"
37 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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41 That the Florida Senate expresses appreciation to Father
42 George Clements for his long and productive service as a Roman
43 Catholic priest and for his vision in conceiving the One Church
44 One Child initiative and other life-changing and life-saving
45 programs.