

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 505 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY MUSTIO, TURZAI AND KOTIK, NOVEMBER 1, 2005

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 1, 2005

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the Order of the Felician Sisters on the occasion of
2 the 150th anniversary of its founding.

3 WHEREAS, The Felician Sisters, known as the Congregation of
4 Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalice Third Order of St. Francis of
5 Assisi, is a religious institute of pontifical right whose
6 members profess public vows of chastity, poverty and obedience
7 and whose aim is to cooperate with Christ in world spiritual
8 renewal; and

9 WHEREAS, The Felician community was established in 1855 in
10 Poland, but its origins trace to the life and charism of Blessed
11 Mary Angela Truszkowska and continue through her followers; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1874 five Felicians left their Polish homeland to
13 work among immigrants in Polonia, Wisconsin; and

14 WHEREAS, The North American foundation of the Felician
15 Sisters today numbers eight provinces: Coraopolis, Pennsylvania;
16 Livonia, Michigan; Buffalo, New York; Chicago, Illinois; Lodi,
17 New Jersey; Enfield, Connecticut; Rio Rancho, New Mexico; and

1 Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; and

2 WHEREAS, Three sisters from Michigan were sent in 1888 to
3 staff the St. Adalbert School in Pittsburgh's South Side; and

4 WHEREAS, By 1913 there were 17 teaching sisters there,
5 including three who commuted to the West End's newly opened
6 Guardian Angels School; and

7 WHEREAS, A new province found temporary headquarters in the
8 former St. Barnabas Home in East McKeesport; and

9 WHEREAS, The provisional home was blessed on July 17, 1921,
10 after months of backbreaking work by the sisters, their family
11 members and parishioners; and

12 WHEREAS, In September 1921 retired Archbishop Regis F.
13 Canevin was appointed chaplain; and

14 WHEREAS, Bishop Hugh C. Boyle blessed a new convent on May
15 26, 1932, with thousands of friends, family members and
16 benefactors in attendance; and

17 WHEREAS, In the fall of 1932 Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
18 Academy opened in a wing of the convent for girls who wished to
19 study for the sisterhood; and

20 WHEREAS, The academy, now the Sacred Heart High School,
21 thrives as a coeducational day school for students from two
22 counties and more than 30 parishes; and

23 WHEREAS, The sisters staffed 23 elementary schools by 1939
24 and engaged in catechetical instruction, health care work and
25 Puerto Rican and Brazilian missions; and

26 WHEREAS, In 1963 the sisters responded to a wish of Bishop
27 John Cardinal Wright for a facility for severely developmentally
28 challenged children, establishing the McGuire Memorial Home in
29 New Brighton, Pennsylvania; and

30 WHEREAS, At the request of Bishop William G. Connare of the

1 Greensburg Diocese, the sisters on July 26, 1964, began to
2 manage a home dedicated as the St. Anne Home for the Elderly;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, During the 1990s the sisters established two new
5 ministries: the Leo Meyer Manor, a residence for senior citizens
6 in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, and the St. Ann Catholic Outreach
7 Center in Kingstree, South Carolina; and

8 WHEREAS, Presently there are 104 sisters in the province of
9 Our Lady of the Sacred Heart ministering in elementary and
10 secondary education; and

11 WHEREAS, Their ministry extends to catechetical programs,
12 parish and health care work, missions among the poor and service
13 in the provincial house complex; and

14 WHEREAS, As of January 1, 2005, membership in the
15 Congregation of the Felician Sisters included 1,966 professed
16 sisters, 33 novices and 18 postulants; and

17 WHEREAS, These members share the charism of Blessed Mary
18 Angela in Brazil, Canada, England, Estonia, France, Italy,
19 Kenya, Mexico, Poland, Ukraine and the United States; therefore
20 be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the Order
22 of the Felician Sisters on the occasion of the 150th anniversary
23 of its founding; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
25 the Felician Sisters, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Provincial
26 House, 1500 Woodcrest Avenue, Coraopolis PA 15108.