
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 759 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, KINSEY, NEILSON, MURT, MILLARD,
KIM, SOLOMON, KORTZ, HILL-EVANS, T. DAVIS, PASHINSKI, RYAN,
SANCHEZ, BURNS, READSHAW, HOWARD, GALLOWAY, STAATS AND
ROEBUCK, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Bishop Nelson Perez on his appointment as the first
2 Latino archbishop of Philadelphia.

3 WHEREAS, Bishop Nelson J. Perez was born in Miami, Florida,
4 on June 16, 1961; and

5 WHEREAS, The son of Cuban immigrants, Bishop Perez was raised
6 in West New York, New Jersey; and

7 WHEREAS, Bishop Perez earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in
8 Psychology from Montclair State University in 1983; and

9 WHEREAS, Bishop Perez taught at Colegio la Piedad, a Catholic
10 elementary school in Puerto Rico; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1988, Bishop Perez entered Saint Charles Borromeo
12 Seminary in Philadelphia, where he earned Master of Divinity and
13 Master of Arts in Theology degrees; and

14 WHEREAS, After attending the diocesan seminary in
15 Philadelphia, Bishop Perez's first role in priesthood landed him
16 as parochial vicar of Saint Ambrose Parish in Philadelphia; and

17 WHEREAS, Bishop Perez later returned to Saint Charles

1 Borromeo Seminary to teach classes in developmental psychology;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Bishop Perez's work in education also includes
4 teaching courses in psychology and religious studies at LaSalle
5 University in Philadelphia between 1994 and 2008; and

6 WHEREAS, As a founding director of the Catholic Institute For
7 Evangelization and the former assistant director of the Office
8 for Hispanic Catholics, Bishop Perez has extensive ties to the
9 Philadelphia area; and

10 WHEREAS, Bishop Perez was appointed pastor at Saint William
11 Parish in Philadelphia from 2002 to 2009, before serving as
12 pastor of Saint Agnes Parish in West Chester, Chester County
13 from 2009 to 2012; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2012, Bishop Perez became the first Latino
15 Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Rockville Centre in Long
16 Island, New York, by Pope Benedict XVI; and

17 WHEREAS, On September 5, 2017, Bishop Perez was installed as
18 the 11th bishop of Cleveland, Ohio; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the decades of his service, Bishop Perez has
20 remained a great influence on and encourager of generations of
21 Americans; and

22 WHEREAS, This commitment and dedication has led Bishop Perez
23 to one of the most important positions in the Roman Catholic
24 Church in the United States; and

25 WHEREAS, On January 23, 2020, Pope Francis named Bishop
26 Nelson Perez as the next head of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese
27 of Philadelphia; and

28 WHEREAS, Bishop Perez is becoming the first Latino to head
29 the archdiocese of more than 1.3 million Catholics; and

30 WHEREAS, Bishop Perez's Mass of Installation is taking place

1 on February 18, 2020, at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter
2 and Paul in Philadelphia; and

3 WHEREAS, It is predicted that Bishop Perez's deep spiritual
4 life, national leadership among Latino Catholics and his rich
5 roots in the Catholic Church of Philadelphia will usher in a new
6 and compelling era of bold evangelization; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor Bishop
8 Nelson Perez on his appointment as the first Latino archbishop
9 of Philadelphia; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize Bishop
11 Nelson Perez for his many contributions and leadership that
12 extend outside the Catholic community.