
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 30 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, MARTIN, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, J. WARD,
BREWSTER, BARTOLOTTA, VOGEL AND ARGALL, FEBRUARY 5, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 5, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of March 8 through 14, 2019, as "National
2 Catholic Sisters Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "National Catholic Sisters Week" originated in 2014
4 as an official component of National Women's History Month; and

5 WHEREAS, The week aims to raise awareness of the impact of
6 women religious and to connect them with contemporary women
7 through events across the nation annually during the week of
8 March 8 through 14; and

9 WHEREAS, Since fourteen Ursuline nuns arrived in New Orleans
10 from France in 1727 and opened what is today the oldest
11 continuously operating school for girls in the United States,
12 Catholic sisters have played core temporal and spiritual roles
13 in communities in this Commonwealth and across the country; and

14 WHEREAS, Catholic sisters have influenced American religion,
15 education, nursing and social work by founding and serving
16 schools, hospitals and similar institutions; and

17 WHEREAS, Catholic sisters founded post-secondary institutions
18 that opened the doors of opportunity for tens of thousands of

1 Pennsylvania women and, today for all students, such as
2 Immaculata University in Immaculata, Misericordia University in
3 Dallas, Alvernia University in Reading, Seton Hill University in
4 Greensburg, Mercyhurst University in Erie and Carlow University
5 in Pittsburgh; and

6 WHEREAS, For nearly two centuries, generations of working and
7 immigrant families found care and comfort in injury and sickness
8 in hospitals that sisters established in communities across this
9 Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, While their numbers have fallen from a high of
11 nearly 200,000 in the 1960s, more than 45,000 sisters continue
12 to serve today as teachers, healthcare professionals, social
13 workers and activists, caregivers, artists and in innumerable
14 other occupations in every state and in all walks of life; and

15 WHEREAS, Sisters continue with humor and heart to serve the
16 poor and marginalized and to work for social justice in building
17 up our communities through service to people of all backgrounds;
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the week of March 8
20 through 14, 2019, as "National Catholic Sisters Week" in
21 Pennsylvania.