

❧ PROCLAMATION *❧*

WHEREAS, following the civil war eight sisters of St. Joseph arrived in St. Augustine on September 2, 1866 for the specific purpose of educating the recently liberated African Americans; and

WHEREAS, the sisters carried out the dream of father Miguel O'Reilly by devoting themselves to the education of men, women and children in St. Augustine; and

WHEREAS, the sisters opened their first school in December, 1866 and founded St. Joseph Academy on St. George Street in 1874; and

WHEREAS, the sisters live in the oldest section of this 1565 city and are preserving the state's oldest structure by rehabilitating the O'Reilly House Museum with matching grants from the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the sisters actively work in the O'Reilly House Museum for preservation and enhancement of St. Augustine's unique history; and

WHEREAS, the sisters have offered education in Saint Augustine for 142 years and have published their 142 years of history in this city and state in this current year, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, The City Commission of the City of Saint Augustine, Florida, dose hereby tender this **PROCLAMATION** to the **SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH** in recognition of their tireless service and contributions to the community of the oldest city in the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Saint Augustine to be affixed this 3rd day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight and the four hundred and forty second year of the founding of Saint Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

Joe Boles, *MAYOR*