

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, St. Benedict, patron saint of African-Americans, was beatified by Pope Benedict XIV in 1743 and canonized in 1807 by Pope Pius VII, he is remembered for his patience and understanding; and

Whereas, in 1890 that certain property on Central Avenue, St. Augustine, Florida, was deeded to Bishop John Moore whose plans were to erect a church, school and other buildings whose income would support a resident priest; and

Whereas, on February 5, 1911 the Most Reverend Bishop William J. Kenney dedicated the Church of St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church and from this date through 1914 the church was a mission in charge of Cathedral Clergy; and

Whereas, the first rector of St. Benedict was Father James B. Albert, SSJ, whose work still bears fruit in St. Augustine, and

Whereas, St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1936 under the oversight of the Reverend Edward J. Blasius, SSJ, who guided his flock through the years of the Depression, and whose loyalty to his parishioners guaranteed their sympathetic understanding and cooperation; and

Whereas, the membership represents the cultural heritage of the community who have long lived in the neighborhood served by St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church; and

Whereas, on February 5, 2011, St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church and all of St. Augustine has cause to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of its founding,

***NOW THEREFORE,** the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine hereby proclaims February 5, 2011 to be the Centennial Anniversary of **St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church** and hereby extends its congratulations and best wishes to the membership of the church and the clergy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I hereunto set my hand and do cause the Seal of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, to be affixed on this 5th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, in the four hundred and forty fifth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

Mayor Joseph Boles