

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 13-0319

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Presentation of Our Lady Catholic Church

Introduced by Councilmember López

WHEREAS, on a bleak and blustery day in November, 1912 the Reverend J.J. Gibbons first saw the wide open prairie with an unbroken view of the Rockies that would become his Barnum parish and, with a friend, he began visiting all the Catholic families in the area to assess the need for a church; and

WHEREAS, conversations indicated that a church was indeed needed but there were few resources to support it among the 50 Catholic families with limited means in his flock and the resourceful Reverend Gibbons assembled an altar at Redman Hall on Knox Court where the first Mass was celebrated on November 23, 1912 on the feast of the Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple and the undaunted Father Gibbons pledged that the people would have a church a year from that date; and

WHEREAS, in the year 1913 the church was dedicated; and

WHEREAS the Sisters from Mercy Hospital helped furnish a small house at 659 Knox Court for a rectory and a small room to be used as a chapel for daily Mass and Father Gibbon's advanced his own money to assure that the Church was built, blessed by Bishop Matz, named Presentation of Our Lady and dedicated exactly one year after the first Mass was said in the parish; and

WHEREAS, in 1919 bells were put in the church tower, the school was opened in 1924, and by the Silver Jubilee in 1937, the need for a larger church and school was recognized, and in 1984 Father John Gibbons dream came true for the diverse parishioners of Hispanic, Italian, German, Irish, and Vietnamese cultures when the new Church was dedicated on May 5, 1984; and

WHEREAS, Father Ed Poehlmann today continues to work diligently to lead Presentation of Our Lady parish and assure that the school and church and its parishioners continue to thrive.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council hereby recognizes the 100th anniversary of Presentation of Our Lady Catholic Church.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Presentation of Our Lady Catholic Church.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 20, 2013

PRESIDENT