

Washington, DC – The U.S. House of Representatives Friday approved a resolution introduced by U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the historic founding of Catholic Charities USA. Catholic Charities works in communities throughout the United States and New Jersey to reduce poverty, support families, and fight for social justice.

“With this resolution, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this historic organization that is a force for good and a leading voice in the United States for compassionate service and care and for social reform,” Holt said. “Catholic Charities provides help and hope for more than 8.5 million people each year.”

“I am grateful to Representative Holt for his recognition of the centennial anniversary of Catholic Charities, USA. So much good has been accomplished in our country through the Church’s organized charities over the last 100 years, not only for Catholics but for all people in need. May the good work continue for another century,” said Bishop David O’Connell, the Diocese of Trenton.

“We are humbled and honored by this Congressional recognition of Catholic Charities’ Centennial and mission. It is particularly encouraging to receive this today because the challenge to assist the growing number of families and individuals in need has increased dramatically this last year,” said Francis E. Dolan, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton.

“We are extremely honored and deeply appreciative of the recognition of our Centennial by our nation’s House of Representatives,” said Rev. Larry Snyder, President of Catholic Charities USA. “It is a rewarding tribute to the staff and volunteers of our agencies who have served those in need over the past 100 years, and recognition of the important work that lies ahead of us as we begin our second century of commitment to the reduction of poverty in America.”

A copy of the resolution is below:

Whereas Catholic Charities USA was founded in 1910 on the campus of Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, as the National Conference of Catholic Charities;

Whereas under the leadership of Msgr. John O’Grady, who served as Executive Secretary from 1920 to 1961, the National Conference of Catholic Charities became a leading voice for compassionate social reforms grounded in Catholic teachings;

Whereas in 1986, the National Conference of Catholic Charities changed its name to Catholic Charities USA;

Whereas this year, 2010, Catholic Charities USA is celebrating its centennial anniversary;

Whereas Catholic Charities USA is the national office for over 1,700 local Catholic Charities agencies and institutions nationwide;

Whereas Catholic Charities' mission is to provide service to people in need, to advocate for justice in social structures, and to call people of goodwill to do the same by working with individuals, families, and communities to help them meet their needs, address their issues, eliminate oppression, and build a just and compassionate society;

Whereas Catholic Charities USA has the goal of providing strong leadership and support to assist local diocesan agencies in their efforts to reduce poverty, support families, and empower communities;

Whereas Catholic Charities USA, inspired by Catholic teachings, maintain programs focused on poverty in the United States, parenthood, immigration, human trafficking, disaster response and relief, and climate change;

Whereas Catholic Charities USA and its members provide help and create hope for more than 8.5 million people each year, regardless of faith; and

Whereas Catholic Charities USA supports local agencies through advocacy, networking, national voice, training, financial support, and leadership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and celebrates the 100th anniversary of the historic founding of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, now called Catholic Charities USA; and

(2) honors and praises Catholic Charities USA for being a national leader in the efforts to fight poverty and to strengthen the United States in times of need and crisis.

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