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R2012-10

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	1/18/2012
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Burns, William D. (4)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Congratulations extended to St. Thomas the Apostle School
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

**Resolution In Honor of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Thomas the Apostle School**

**WHEREAS,** It is with great pleasure that the members City Council of the City of Chicago are hereby informed of the St. Thomas the Apostle School in Hyde Park, Illinois 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary; and

**WHEREAS,** St. Thomas the Apostle is a parochial elementary school under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The origin of its legacy of learning can be traced to 1886, 25 years after Hyde Park was incorporated as a town, and 17 years after St. Thomas the Apostle realized permanent status as a parish. It was then that Sister M. Gregory, Superior, established the school in two rooms in the church basement at the request of Fr. W. A. Horan as a ministry of the Sinsinewa Dominicans; and

**WHEREAS,** By 1916, enrollment at St. Thomas the Apostle School had grown to over 180 students and Fr. Thomas Vincent Shannon, the new pastor at St. Thomas, determined the frame structure that had served as the school for 30 years “wouldn’t do.” Initially, Fr. Shannon arranged for the rental of a nearby vacant public school, the Ray School; its doors opened to 486 eager students on September 7, 1916. The current St. Thomas the Apostle School building, dedicated on October 20, 1929, is the result of Fr. Shannon’s vision and careful planning to ensure quality education would always be available to children in the Hyde Park area; and

**WHEREAS,** Initiatives such as the St. Thomas the Apostle Children’s Choir, founded by Fr. Robert H. Oldershaw in 1965, whose young musicians shared their talents by performing concerts for organizations throughout the community. They eventually recorded two LPs including Christmas is for Children which was recently reproduced as a CD. Initiatives such as the creation of an outdoor reading garden on the school grounds in 2009, was recognized by Mayor Daley’s Landscape Awards Program for making a substantial and lasting contribution to the well-being of Hyde Park residents and the city of Chicago as a whole; and

**WHEREAS,** The Hyde Park community began commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Thomas the Apostle School on Thursday, October 20, 2011. The day’s events included an all-school Mass followed by a special program depicting the theme “Eras of Education.” Each class, including preschool, researched an assigned era relative to the history of St. Thomas and the world, presenting their individual interpretations in prose, poetry, and song. Current school principal Candace Scheidt commented that the students learned much about American history and popular culture through the years, as well as the diverse heritage of America and St. Thomas the Apostle; and

**WHEREAS,** During Catholic School’s Week, students assembled a time capsule of items to document and preserve the school’s legacy for future generations. Other celebratory activities scheduled to take place during the year include a piano concert, Spring Gala, and gospel choir reunion concert. Alumni from across the country have been

invited to participate in the festivities to share their past experiences and memories of St. Thomas the Apostle; and

**WHEREAS,** This august body has been informed of this auspicious occasion by the Honorable William D. Burns, Alderman of the Fourth Ward; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council assemble this Eighteenth day of January 2012, do hereby pay tribute to St. Thomas the Apostle School and would like to extend congratulations on achieving its quasiquicentennial anniversary; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the St Thomas the Apostle community.



William D. Burns  
Alderman, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward  
City of Chicago

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