



1997 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 120

March 10, 1998 - Introduced by Representatives PLALE, WALKER and CULLEN,
cosponsored by Senators BURKE and FARROW. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the Society of Jesus for its substantial contributions to the
2 quality of spiritual, intellectual and cultural life in Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, the Society of Jesus was founded on September 22, 1540, by the
4 Basque priest Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556); and

5 Whereas, the society was founded for "the progress of souls in Christian life and
6 doctrine and the propagation of the faith"; and

7 Whereas, the Jesuits had an active community life that encompassed a number
8 of forms of spiritual ministry, focusing heavily on educational institutions, especially
9 universities and seminaries; and

10 Whereas, French Jesuit priests accompanied the fur trappers who penetrated
11 the Great Lakes region and made contact with the Native American tribes of the
12 area; and

13 Whereas, by 1661, the first Jesuit priest in Wisconsin, Father Rene Menard,
14 S.J., arrived near the source of the Wisconsin River at Lac Vieux Desert; and

1 Whereas, Menard perished and was replaced in October 1665 by Father Claude
2 Allouez, who resided at a trading post at Chequamegon Bay and who opened a
3 mission post at Oconto and in 1670 opened a chapel dedicated to St. Francis Xavier
4 at De Pere; and

5 Whereas, other Jesuit missionaries such as Claude Dablon and Louis Andre
6 traveled throughout Wisconsin preaching the Christian gospel, celebrating the Holy
7 Sacrifice of the Mass and baptizing converts to the faith; and

8 Whereas, in 1669, Father Jacques Marquette arrived at the mission at
9 Chequamegon Bay, and in 1673 he joined the young trader Louis Jolliet in plying the
10 waters of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, and camped near Milwaukee from November
11 23 to 27, 1674; and

12 Whereas, a vigorous American Catholic Church was growing and beginning in
13 Baltimore in 1789, and the new nation was being carved up into dioceses in order to
14 keep up with the spread of the American population westward; and

15 Whereas, in November 1843, the Diocese of Milwaukee, encompassing the
16 entire territory of Wisconsin, was established and Father John Martin Henni, a
17 Swiss-German priest, was appointed as bishop; and

18 Whereas, in 1856, Henni purchased land on “the Hill” — at present 10th and
19 State streets — in Milwaukee for the purpose of establishing a school directed by the
20 Jesuits; and

21 Whereas, in March 1864, the Wisconsin legislature formally incorporated
22 Marquette College, to be erected on the 10th and State streets site; and

23 Whereas, on August 15, 1880, ground was broken for Marquette College, and
24 the college was dedicated on August 28, 1881; and

