

EXHIBIT "A"

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF ALABAMA

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

CERTIFICATE OF SUCCESSION

KNOWN ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi, Archbishop of Mobile, has certified and filed with me, the Secretary of State of Alabama, his application for a Certificate of Succession in keeping with the provisions of Title 10-4-5, 1975 Code of Alabama, setting forth the Most Rev. Oscar H. Lipscomb, who was the Catholic Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Mobile, submitted his resignation and that the same was accepted on April 2, 2008; that prior to the resignation of Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb and during the tenure of Most Rev. Edward P. Allen, the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Mobile had become a corporation sole under the name "Bishop of Mobile, a Corporation Sole" in keeping with the laws of the State of Alabama for such cases made and provided, that subsequently the Catholic Diocese of Mobile was raised to the dignity of a Metropolitan See so that the name of the Corporation Sole became "Archbishop of Mobile, a Corporation Sole"; that the said Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi is the successor to the Most Rev. Oscar H. Lipscomb in the bishopric of the Archdiocese of Mobile and that he, Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi, was appointed the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Mobile on the 2nd day of April, 2008;

It further appearing that Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi was installed into the office as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Mobile on the 6th day of June, 2008, and;

It now further appearing that the applicant, Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi, incorporates in his application for a Certificate of Succession his commission as Archbishop evidencing his right to the succession, together with an abstract in English thereof, setting forth as well the date and place his installation into office, and;

It further appearing that said certificate has been subscribed and sworn to and certified as provided for in cases of original application for incorporation of a Bishop of a Diocese;

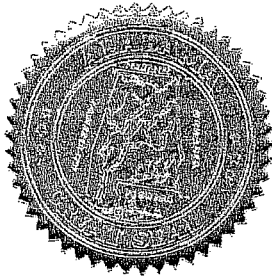
NOW THEREFORE, this is to certify that the said Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi, as Catholic Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Mobile shall succeed the said Most Rev. Oscar H. Lipscomb, former Catholic Archbishop of Mobile, in the corporation known as "Archbishop of Mobile, a Corporation Sole".

This certificate of succession is hereby issued to the said Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi, as the Catholic Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Mobile and the said Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Mobile is hereby clothed with all of the powers of the original incorporator of the Corporation Sole, then known as the Bishop of Mobile, and now known as the Archbishop of Mobile, to-wit, those invested in the late Edward P. Allen, as the original incorporator and his successors, Most Rev. Thomas J. Toolen, Most Rev. John L. May, and Most Rev. Oscar H. Lipscomb.

Henceforth, the said Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi is hereby officially certified as The Archbishop of Mobile, a Corporation Sole and the name of the corporation is:

Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi, Archbishop of Mobile, a Corporation Sole.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Alabama at Montgomery, Alabama on the 10 day of June, 2008.



*Beth Chapman*⁴⁵
SECRETARY OF STATE