

## 2009-J2796

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk upon the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk upon the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood; and

WHEREAS, The son of Helena and Feliks Tokarczyk, Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk was born on February 25, 1954, in Krasnystaw, Poland, and baptized on June 14, 1954, in the parish of St. Luke in Surhow, where he also received the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Confirmation; and

WHEREAS, After completing elementary school in Surhow and attending high school in Tarnogora, Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk began studying theology at the seminary in Lublin, which is considered a branch of the Catholic University of Lublin; and

WHEREAS, On June 17, 1979, Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk was ordained as a priest by the Archbishop of Lublin, Professor Boleslaw Pylak, after completing his magisterium in theology; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk began serving in five parishes in Poland, Swidnik, Hrubieszow, Mircze, Rejowiec Fabryczny and Czestoborowice, where he taught religious classes and organized pilgrim-

images for young people and adults, as well as folk groups for youth to join in; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk immigrated to the United States and spent his first few months assisting at the Churches of Our Lady of the Assumption in Copiague, New York, and Methodeous in Greenpoint; he also helped at St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Church in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, After receiving permission from the Archbishop of Lublin to stay in America, Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk was sent by Cardinal John O'Connor to St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure at St. Stanislaus Kostak Church, Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk spearheaded an increase in Mass attendance, implemented a Saturday school to learn Polish and English for children and adults, addressed the structural problems of the 1923 church building and arranged with the Sisters of Charity Health Care System to conduct health fairs and administer free full immunization shots for parishioners; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, the Pulaski Day Parade Committee of Staten Island was formed and Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk served as the inaugural Grand Marshal, proudly leading a contingent of Polish Staten Islanders up 5th Avenue; he was elevated to the rank of Reverend Canon, a highly respected honor in the European tradition of the Catholic Church in 1994; and

WHEREAS, After serving at St. Stanislaus Kostak Church for eight years, Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk was reassigned to St. Joseph's Parish in Florida, New York, which consisted of St. Joseph's Church, St. Andrew Bobola Church, St. Joseph's School and St. Joseph's Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, One of the first changes Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk made when he came to St. Joseph's Parish was to establish a holy hour on the first Friday of every month with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament by reinstating an old church tradition for the celebration of

Corpus Christi, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, which included an outdoor procession; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk added a folk group to the 9:00 a.m. Family Mass in 2001, put into practice a Children's Gospel Group for the younger children of the parish in 2002 and became the administrator of St. Stanislaus Church and Cemetery in Pine Island in 2008; and

WHEREAS, A devoted member of the community, Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk is the chaplain for the Florida Fire Department and the Pine Island Fire Department, a member of the Knights of Columbus, as well as a participating pastor for the inter-faith services including Memorial Day and Baccalaureate; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk upon the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood, noting his unremitting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Canon Joseph M. Tokarczyk.