

2009-J5186

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending The Very Reverend Canon Thomas C. Machalski upon the occasion of celebrating the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination on May 14, 2010

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 The Very Reverend Canon Thomas C. Machalski upon the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination to be celebrated on Friday, May 14, 2010, at the Polonaise Terrace, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition, on Sunday, May 16, 2010, Father Machalski will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Josaphat's Church, Bayside, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born on September 17, 1958, Father Machalski is the son of the late Thomas C., Sr. and Regina Machalski; he was raised in Maspeth, New York, and attended Holy Cross Church, where he was an altar boy, choirboy, lector and member of the teen club; he also attended the parish's Polish Saturday School; and

WHEREAS, Father Machalski graduated from St. Mary's Preparatory in Orchard Lake, Michigan on May 31, 1976; while at St. Mary's he was involved in many extracurricular activities and clubs and was consistently on the honor roll; he was also nominated to the Society of Distinguished American High School Students and Who's Who Among American High

School Students; and

WHEREAS, In the fall of 1976, Father Machalski entered St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, where he was active in many clubs, served as a Prefect in the Preparatory and was consistently named to the Dean's List; he earned a Bachelors of Arts degree in Philosophy Magna Cum Laude on May 3, 1980, and was nominated to "Who's Who Among American College and University Students" as well as the Society of Outstanding Young Americans; and

WHEREAS, In the fall of 1980, Father Machalski began his theological studies at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, New York, where he received a Master's of Divinity degree; upon completion of his studies, he spent his pastoral formation year at the parish of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Bayside, New York; in 1984, he was sent to the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland (KUL) to improve his fluency in Polish; on May 18, 1985, Father was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Brooklyn by the late Bishop Francis J. Mugavero; and

WHEREAS, Father Machalski's first assignment was to the parish of SS. Cyril and Methodius in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn; in 1988, Father Machalski once again traveled to Poland and participated in the program of language, history and culture at the Catholic University of Poland for foreigners and also worked as a curate in the parish of Our Lady Queen of Poland in Lublin; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Father Machalski was appointed as a part-time Advocate in the Tribunal of the Diocese of Brooklyn and continued in this capacity until 1997; and

WHEREAS, In April 1991, Father Machalski was appointed Administrator of the parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa-St. Casimir's, Brooklyn; Father

served in this parish until July 14, 1993, when he was transferred to the parish of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Bayside, where he served as a parochial vicar until June 1997; and

WHEREAS, On September 1, 1997, Father Machalski was assigned to the Marriage Tribunal and as a part-time Parochial Vicar in his home parish, Holy Cross, Maspeth; Father is a member of the Diocese of Brooklyn's Ecumenical Commission having served on the following subcommittees: Anglican-Roman Catholic Bi-lateral Committee, the Lutheran-Catholic dialogue and is presently on the Orthodox-Roman Catholic Dialogue Committee; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, Father Machalski graduated from Fordham University in New York with a Master's of Science degree in Educational Administration and Supervision; he has also attended Nassau Community College in the evenings to study Spanish; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, Father Machalski was appointed the Coordinator of the Diocese of Brooklyn's Pilgrimage to the 46th International Eucharistic Congress in Wroclaw, Poland; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Father Machalski began studies in canon law at the Catholic University of America (CUA) in Washington, D.C.; after completing the summer session at CUA, Father was assigned as a part-time staff member of the Diocese of Brooklyn's Tribunal and as part-time Parochial Vicar at his home parish, Holy Cross in Maspeth; and

WHEREAS, Father Machalski eventually continued his studies at CUA full time and was awarded a Licentiate in Canon Law on May 15, 1999; and

WHEREAS, On July 1, 1999, Father Machalski was appointed as Associate Judicial Vicar (Vice-Officialis) of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Brooklyn and is currently one of its presiding judges; he was also a Judge in the appellate court (Court of Second Instance) of the Eparchy of St. Maron, Brooklyn, for Maronite Rite Catholics; at the same time, he was assigned as a Resident to St. Josaphat's Parish in Bayside, New York, where he also served as a Weekend Assistant to the Pastor; in December of 1999, Father was appointed to serve as Secretary/Master of Ceremonies to the Most Reverend Rene A. Valero, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Father Machalski serves as an Instructor in the Diocese of

Brooklyn's Pastoral Institute lecturing on Canon Law and Ecumenical and Inter-religious Dialogue; he also serves as a member of the Evaluations committee of the Permanent Diaconate Program of the Diocese of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Father Machalski is the Secretary of the Polish Apostolate of the Diocese of Brooklyn; Chairman of the Diocese's Annual Polish-American Heritage Day; Faithful Friar of the Stephen Moyolan Assembly Knights of Columbia; Chaplain of the Ridgewood Council No. 1814 Knights of Columbus and the Pope Pius XII Council No. 4255 Knights of Columbus; Faithful Friar of the Fourth Degree, St. Isaac Jogues, S.J. Province, New York District No. 1; Chaplain of the Matinecock Chapter, Suanhacky Lodge No. 49; and Chaplain of the Pulaski Association of the Uniformed Sanitation Workers of the City of New York; he also serves on the Advisory Board of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament School, Bayside, New York, and is the current Chaplain of the Queens Board of District Deputies, Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Father Machalski is a member of the following organizations: Kosciuszko Foundation, the Polish National Alliance Group No. 52, Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn - Michael and Natalie Kencki Society No. 264 (which has since become the Polish National Alliance of North America), The Polish-American Congress Downstate New York Division, the Polish-American Historical Association, the General Casimir Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, and The Canon Law Society of

America, The Eastern Regional Conference of Canonists, and Phi Beta Kappan - Fordham University Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Father Machalski is also President of the New York Metro District Alumni of the Orchard Lake Schools and Chaplain of the Metro New York Chapter of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Orchard Lake Schools - Chapter 26; he is also a Regent of the Orchard Lake Schools and serves on the Board of Regents as well as on the Board of Trustees of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary; on July 13, 2000, Father Machalski was elected

National President of the Alumni Association of the Orchard Lake Schools; and

WHEREAS, An active member of the Polish American Priests' Association, in 1995, Father Machalski was General Chairman of the Polish American Priests' Association's 5th Annual Convention that was held in the Diocese of Brooklyn and was Chairman again when the Diocese of Brooklyn hosted the 20th Annual Convention in 2009; in 1998, Father was elected to an unprecedented third term as Secretary of the Polish American Priests' Association and was elected as President of the Association on May 3, 2000; he was re-elected to a second term as President in April 2002 and upon the completion of his second term as President, he was once again elected Secretary; in 2006, he was re-elected as Secretary and after completing this term he was elected to membership on the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Father Machalski also served on the National Polish Apostolate Committee and on the Committee of the Papal and Polish Heritage Room of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. as the Polish American Priests' Association's representative; and

WHEREAS, Father Machalski has appeared on television and spoken on radio regarding various Polish topics on numerous occasions; in 1997, he appeared in the PBS documentary "The Polish Americans" which was broadcast on public television nationwide; and

WHEREAS, On November 2, 2005, His Grace, the Most Reverend Jozef Zycinski, Archbishop of Lublin, informed Father Machalski that with the consent of The Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn, he was named an Honorary Canon of the Chapter of Canons of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist; this most prestigious honor recognized Father Machalski's untiring efforts to aid the Church in Poland and particularly the Church in Lublin as well as recognizing the pastoral care he has exercised on behalf of Polonia in the Diocese of Brooklyn and the United States; and

WHEREAS, On September 30, 2006, Father Machalski was invested as a

member of the Equestrian Order of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, Eastern Lieutenancy in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City; on September 26, 2009, Father was advanced to the rank of Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre in a ceremony conducted by His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop Emeritus and the Archdiocese of New York; and

WHEREAS, On September 8, 2007, Father Machalski was installed as Pastor of St. Josaphat Church in Bayside, New York by the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, In the fall of 2008, Father Machalski was given the added responsibility of being Vocation Director for Polish-speaking vocations as well as appointed to serve on the Seminary Board of Admissions of the Diocese of Brooklyn and as a Liaison for the Bishop to SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, In the fall of 2009, Bishop DiMarzio appointed Father the Facilitator of the Queen North No. 8 Cluster for a period of three years; and

WHEREAS, Father Machalski 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, 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 The Very Reverend Canon Thomas C. Machalski upon the occasion of celebrating the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination, 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 Father Thomas C. Machalski.