

2009-J5832

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Sisters of the Visitation of Holy Mary upon the occasion of celebrating its 400th Anniversary on June 6, 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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Sisters of the Visitation of Holy Mary upon the occasion of celebrating its 400th Anniversary at a Eucharistic Liturgy to be held on Sunday, June 6, 2010, at the Sacred Heart Chapel Visitation Monastery, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary was first established on June 6, 1610, in Annecy, France, by St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and subsequent Doctor of the Church and St. Jane de Chantal, wife, mother, widow and religious foundress; and

WHEREAS, The Visitation of Holy Mary was canonically erected as a monastic, contemplative Order with papal enclosure by Pope Paul V in 1618 and solemnly approved by Pope Urban III in 1626; and

WHEREAS, The Visitation's founder, St. Francis de Sales, was canonized in 1665 and its foundress St. Jane de Chantal was canonized in 1767; St. Francis de Sales was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1877 and his two most famous works, Introduction to the Devout Life, and Treatise on the Love of God, are still popular today; and

WHEREAS, The Visitation Order became the seedbed and promoter for the popular devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the revelations to the Visitandine St. Margaret Mary (1647-1690), who was canonized in

1920; and

WHEREAS, New congregations, like the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales and Salesians of Don Bosco, who were influenced by the Visitation and its Salesian spirituality, began to emerge in the 1800s; in addition, associations for the laity were formed in the same spirit as the Visitation, such as the Daughters of St. Francis de Sales; and

WHEREAS, Internationally, the Spanish Civil War in 1936 was the cause of martyrdom of seven Spanish Visitandine Nuns, who were beatified in Rome in 1998; and

WHEREAS, The Visitation Order has instructed and formed countless young girls and youth throughout many countries by its educational establishments of boarding schools and academies; and

WHEREAS, The heritage of the Visitation Order is being preserved in the Museum of the Visitation in Moulins, France which first opened its doors in 1992 and received the approval of the Holy See in 2005; the Curator and Founder Monsieur Gerard Picaud has collected over 1000 pieces of Visitandine treasures to exhibit; and

WHEREAS, The first Monastery of the Visitation in the United States was founded in Washington D.C. in 1799; the Visitation Order came to Brooklyn in 1855 and settled in Bay Ridge in 1903, blending a full monastic life with the education of young girls in Visitation Academy; and

WHEREAS, Currently there are approximately 2500 Visitation Nuns worldwide in 156 Monasteries; one of the newest Visitation Monasteries was established in South Korea in 2001, and Africa is also seeing substantial growth of the Visitation Order; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals and organizations which

distinguish themselves through their unremitting commitment and service to humanity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to commend the efforts of all

the Sisters of the Visitation of Holy Mary, throughout the long and enduring history of this noble congregation, who have devoted their lives to the benevolent care of others and ministered to the sick with an overwhelming spirit of charity and love; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Sisters of the Visitation of Holy Mary upon the occasion of celebrating its 400th Anniversary on June 6, 2010; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sisters of the Visitation of Holy Mary.