

2009-J6124

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs upon the occasion of celebrating its 125th Anniversary

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in acknowledging significant milestones in the distinguished histories of its esteemed entities; and

WHEREAS, The Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs is celebrating its 125th Anniversary in 2010; an Anniversary Gala will be held on August 13th, and a 125th Anniversary Mass and concert will be held on August 15th; and

WHEREAS, The Shrine was once a 17th Century Mohawk Village called Ossernenon; and

WHEREAS, At this site, Father Isaac Jogues, Jesuit brother Rene Goupil, and lay missionary John Lalande were martyred in the 1640s; they are the only canonized American martyrs; and

WHEREAS, In 1656, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, the beatified "Lily of the Mohawks" was born on the site that is now the Shrine; and

WHEREAS, In 1884, the site was purchased by Father Joseph Loyzance, S.J., pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Troy; he called it "Our Lady of Martyrs" for the Blessed Mother who stood at the cross of Jesus; and

WHEREAS, The first Mass was celebrated on August 15, 1888, on the Feast of the Assumption and the 243rd Anniversary of Father Jogues' arrival at the village as a captive; and

WHEREAS, The site was drawing such a large number of pilgrims that, by 1895, more property and a larger chapel were needed; the addition included "the Ravine"; and

WHEREAS, In 1930, the North American Martyrs were canonized, which created a need for an even larger church; the Coliseum was completed in 1931 and holds 6,500 people with standing room for an additional 3,500;

and

WHEREAS, Today, the Shrine consists of five chapels, two museums, a candle shrine, Jesuit cemetery, outdoor Stations of the Cross, a Visitor Center and Gift Shop, all on more than 400 acres of flowered landscapes and tree-studded slopes and lawns; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York is pleased to recognize this significant milestone in the history of this sacred Shrine; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs upon the occasion of celebrating its 125th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Father Peter J. Murray, S.J., Director of the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs.