

2011-J1011

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Villa Maria Academy of the Bronx, New York, March 26, 2011

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate the pursuit of excellence in education and service to the community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Villa Maria Academy of the Bronx, New York; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at a Gala Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011; and

WHEREAS, A private Catholic elementary school owned and operated by the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal, Villa Maria Academy is celebrating 125 years of providing a liberating education within a nurturing Catholic community; and

WHEREAS, Villa Maria Academy provides a full rigorous academic program accredited by the Middle States Association, including music and art programs, along with an extensive physical education and sports program; and

WHEREAS, Villa Maria is a school of Christian formation and of quality academic instruction geared to preparing students for life in today's Church and society; and

WHEREAS, The educational philosophy of Villa Maria Academy flows from a deep respect for the uniqueness of each person; while following a basic course of instruction in all areas of curriculum, it endeavors to create a climate where both teacher and student enjoy some freedom of choice in learning environment and activities; this freedom has its concomitant responsibilities and accountability, consistent with a

community of people, respectful of and responsible for one another; and
WHEREAS, In January of 1886, at the invitation of Father Federic
Tetreault, the Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame came from Mont-
real to teach the elementary school children of his parish, St. Jean
Baptiste, at East 79 Street and Lexington Avenue in New York City; a
month later, on February 23, 1886, Villa Maria Academy began its life
when four young women presented themselves to the Sisters at their resi-
dence on Lexington Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Villa Maria Academy continued to expand during the 1920s; in
1927 all the Manhattan properties were sold and the Ellis estate in the
Country Club section of the Bronx was purchased and the Academy moved
there in 1928; and

WHEREAS, In February 1941, the Board of Regents voted to grant an
absolute charter to Villa Maria Academy, Inc.; after deciding to focus
exclusively on a mission as a co-educational elementary school, in 1986,
the Academy celebrated its centennial; and

WHEREAS, The outstanding reputation of Villa Maria Academy as a school
with an unsurpassed challenging academic program has proven to be one of
its greatest assets; as of 2011, the Academy celebrates 125 years of
educational excellence; and

WHEREAS, Spanning three centuries, Villa Maria Academy has continued
to advance the mission, values and traditions of St. Marguerite Bour-
geois and the Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame; in its vision
for the future there will always be challenges and change; its hope is
that like its predecessors, it will continue to live a life rooted in
joyous faith that has made Villa Maria a special house of learning these
many years; and

WHEREAS, Villa Maria Academy of the Bronx, New York, continues to
fulfill its laudatory educational purposes and is proudly aware of its
distinguished past; it is eager to fulfill its commitment to its
students, faculty, alumni and community, and is planning with vision and

purpose for the growth and change it will encounter in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to Villa Maria Academy of the Bronx, New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when an educational institution of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention, it should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Villa Maria Academy of the Bronx, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Villa Maria Academy, Bronx, New York.