

2011-J3122

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church upon the occasion of its designation as having been named the first minor basilica on Long Island

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to celebrate the milestones of those enduring places of worship within the State of New York which serve the spiritual needs of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church upon the occasion of its designation as having been named the first minor basilica on Long Island; and

WHEREAS, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church in Southampton stands out for its central Hamptons location, its beauty and now its designation as the first minor basilica on Long Island; Pope Benedict XVI approved the status after a request from Bishop William Murphy, who said he wanted to give recognition to the East End because the seat of the diocese is far away in Rockville Centre; and

WHEREAS, The minor basilica nomination is a rare distinction, given to just 70 churches in the United States, including the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington and St. Patrick's Old Cathedral, in Manhattan's NoLita neighborhood; the designation is granted to churches with historical, spiritual or architectural importance and that have an active faith community; and

WHEREAS, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church has a rich history; a Gothic-style church, it was built a century ago; the church seats 650 and features "irreplaceable" handmade stained-glass windows from Austria, a 400-year-old wooden pulpit imported from France, and gargoyles atop a bell tower; and

WHEREAS, The new designation means the church will enjoy certain privileges, such as displaying the official papal symbol of crossed keys and celebrating special feast days linked to the current pontiff, including the anniversary of his election as pope; the new name of the church will be known as the "Basilica Parish of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary"; and

WHEREAS, Ably led by Pastor Jeffrey Madley, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church will prosper today and into the future; and

WHEREAS, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church upon the occasion of its designation as having been named the first minor basilica on Long Island; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Pastor Jeffrey Madley.