

## 2015-J1042

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of St. Ann's Church of Staten Island, New York

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of St. Ann's Parish of Staten Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, The founders of St. Ann's Church in Dongan Hills drew upon the spirituality of St. Ann as they began serving in the parish in 1914; from the very beginning St. Ann's has been intimately linked with the families of the community whose spiritual needs it serves; and

WHEREAS, Father Joseph G. Murray was the first Pastor of St. Ann's Church; during this time, Mass was held in a stable located on the Fair Grounds on Richmond Road which is now the site of the Berry Houses; services were later moved to the Seaver's barn also located on Richmond Road; and

WHEREAS, In July of 1917, Father Joseph A. Farrell was appointed as St. Ann's second Pastor; he searched tirelessly for a suitable and accommodating site for a permanent building for the Church, finally purchasing a house and land in 1920 on the present corner of Jefferson Street and Cromwell Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Work on the new Church began almost immediately after the purchase of the property, and the cornerstone was laid in 1922; on August 26, 1923, the first baptism took place in St. Ann's Church new location; and

WHEREAS, The interior of the Church was graced by a beautiful marble altar which was imported from Italy along with two side marble altars; the original stained glass windows in the church remain today; and WHEREAS, Father Terence McNulty, Pastor from 1926 until 1937, was responsible for building the rectory, and in May of 1946, Monsignor Christopher J. McCormack began his 23 year tenure as Pastor of St. Ann's Church; and

WHEREAS, As expansion and growth continued in Dongan Hills, the people of the parish requested Monsignor Christopher J. McCormack to build a parish school; on September 12, 1955, Saint Ann School was established and staffed by the Presentation Sisters; and

WHEREAS, The renovation of St. Ann's Church following the Second Vatican Council was undertaken by Monsignor William J. Ward; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1980s, while Monsignor Vincent Clyne served as Pastor, a new cafeteria was added to the school; pre-school, which was being run in a rented facility, came to have its own building in 1993, under the Pastorship of Father Lawrence T. Quinn; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, under the guidance of Father John Steven Kostek, St. Ann School underwent a major renovation to bring a technologically modernized facility to the children; in addition, a partial renovation of the church was undertaken in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the able leadership of Father Joy Mampilly, Pastor since 2010, St. Ann's Church stands humbly, prayerfully, meditatively, and joyfully; and

WHEREAS, St. Ann's Church stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the upcoming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commemorate the 100th Anniversary of St. Ann's Church of Staten Island, New York, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Father Joy Mampilly, St. Ann's Church, Staten Island, New York.