2015-K678

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish for its more than 50 years of distinguished service to the Cheektowaga community

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 commending St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish for its more than 50 years of distinguished service to the Cheektowaga community; and

WHEREAS, From the time of its establishment, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish has continued to have a tremendous effect on its parishioners and the Diocese of Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, On March 28, 1940, The Most Reverend John Duffy, Bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo, asked Reverend Walter Gonter to establish a new parish serving the northwest portion of the Town of Cheektowaga; this newly created parish was to be named in honor of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, the Patron Saint of Youth; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish prospered and expanded, reaching a high point of 2,400 families with over 900 children in 1965; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Auxiliary Bishop Pius Benincasa was appointed as the third Pastor of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish by The Most Reverend James McNulty, Bishop of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, An outstanding church leader for 21 years, Auxiliary Bishop Pius Benincasa helped guide St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish into becoming one of the largest Parishes in the Diocese of Buffalo; as a sign of his

devotion, Bishop Benincasa requested to be buried on the grounds of the Church; and

WHEREAS, Recently, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish has made physical improvements to church facilities and has added new seating for the elderly, as well as further wheelchair accessibility; its church member-ship has stabilized with current parishioner levels at approximately 2,000 families; and

WHEREAS, Today, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish boasts two energetic senior citizens organizations, a newly formed parish council, and a diligent finance committee; it also oversees a Holy Name Society, Altar and Rosary Society, Home School Association, Scouting Programs, Color Guard and a Catholic Youth organization; and

WHEREAS, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish members serve their fellow parishioners as Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Choir Members, and Ushers; in addition, they provide services to others through the Legion of Mary, Ladies of Charity, Religious Education Programs, and the Sacred Heart League; and

WHEREAS, Since 1982, this exceptional church community has also had the assistance of the Sisters of Social Service for tending to the concerns of parishioners in need; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the past 50 years, the members of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish Family have served the residents of Cheektowaga as a proud, dedicated, caring and committed church community; and

WHEREAS, Under the illustrious leadership of Monsignor Peter Popadick, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming 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 attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commend St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish upon the occasion of celebrating its more than 50 years of distinguished service to the Cheektowaga community, 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 Monsignor Peter Popadick, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish.