

2015-J2932

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Father James Massa upon the occasion of being promoted to Auxiliary Bishop by Pope Francis on July 20, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to applaud the just recognition of men of the cloth who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unrelenting commitment and long-standing preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, this Legislative Body is proud to congratulate Father James Massa upon the occasion of being promoted to Auxiliary Bishop by Pope Francis on July 20, 2015; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion will be celebrated with an Ordination Ceremony performed by Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio on Monday, July 20, 2015; thenceforth, Father James Massa will help the Bishop tend to the 1.5 million Catholics spread across Brooklyn and Queens; and

WHEREAS, James Massa was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, to the late Andrew and Irene Gilbert Massa; he earned his Bachelor's degree in both Theology and History from Boston College in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Three years later, James Massa received a Master's of Divinity Degree from Yale University; in 1997, he furthered his education by obtaining his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Fordham University, where he wrote his dissertation under the guidance of the late Cardinal Avery Dulles; and

WHEREAS, On October 25, 1986, James Massa was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop Francis J. Mugavero, serving the Diocese of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Father James Massa's first assignment was Parochial Vicar at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in the Forest Hills section of Queens, a title he held from 1986-1990; and

WHEREAS, From 1990-1993, Father James Massa served as Campus Minister at Queens College; in addition, he held the position of Associate Professor of Theology at several seminaries and universities; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, Father James Massa was selected as Executive Director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue; and

WHEREAS, Three years later, he was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the Consulter to the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, and a member of the Joint Working Group between the Holy See and the World Council of Churches; and

WHEREAS, Father James Massa returned to the Diocese of Brooklyn in 2011, and coordinated the merger of the Theologates for the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Rockville Centre, and the Diocese of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Father James Massa held the position of both Associate Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Director of Assessment and Accreditation at Saint Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, New York; he then went on to serve as the Moderator of the Curia in the Diocese of Brooklyn in 2014, a title he will hold until his Ordination Ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Father James Massa has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that indi-

vidual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Father James Massa upon the occasion of being promoted to Auxiliary Bishop by Pope Francis noting his unrelenting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of continued purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Father James Massa.