

## 2015-J4068

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of St. Brigid's Catholic Church in Westbury, 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. Brigid's Catholic Church in Westbury, New York; and

WHEREAS, In the middle of a busy Westbury street, set back by a green lawn, sits a stone church with a rising gray steeple which has become a landmark in the community, both in a physical and spiritual sense; St. Brigid's Catholic Church is a serene, welcoming haven amidst the busyness which surrounds it; and

WHEREAS, While the community around it has changed vastly over the years, going from rural farmland to a developed suburbia, St. Brigid's Catholic Church has remained true to its original mission of providing a place of worship where people can feel loved and accepted; and

WHEREAS, Over the last hundred years, thousands upon thousands of people have walked through the church doors; seeking solace after a funeral, rejoicing at a wedding, celebrating a baptism, looking for social services or finding guidance during Mass; and

WHEREAS, Currently, more than 2,000 people attend services at St. Brigid's Catholic Church every week, and many more utilize its numerous social services; the church's diverse population reflects the wide mix of ethnicities in Westbury, and there are services offered in English,

Spanish, Italian and Creole; and

WHEREAS, St. Brigid's Catholic Church serves as a beacon in the community and offers numerous outreach programs, including a food pantry and immigration services through Casa Mary Johanna; and

WHEREAS, To celebrate this auspicious milestone, St. Brigid's Catholic Church is launching a restoration project to help bring it up to date, as well as to help them continue their outreach services; and

WHEREAS, The building has seen several restoration projects over the last centennial; one of the more recent major transformations was in the 1950s, when the simple church was renovated to become more ornate with additional statues, as many other churches were doing during that time period; and

WHEREAS, In the mid-1980s, St. Brigid's Catholic Church decided to revert back to its original simplicity, and took out some of the elaborate elements that were added more than six decades ago; and

WHEREAS, Today, the parish is looking to repair and renovate window panes, pews, doors, bathrooms and the roof; they also hope to move some of the offices from the parish center to the St. Anthony's Hall, so they can relocate the food pantry to the parish center; and

WHEREAS, St. Brigid's Catholic Church in Westbury, New York 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 commemorate the 100th Anniversary of St. Brigid's Catholic Church in

Westbury, 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 St. Brigid's Catholic Church in Westbury, New York.