

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of The Reverend Monsignor Gerald Ryan, the oldest serving priest in New York City

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of The Reverend Monsignor Gerald Ryan, on April 11, 2013, at the age of 93, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

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

WHEREAS, Monsignor Gerald Ryan, the oldest serving priest in New York City and a beloved, vital figure in the South Bronx, led St. Luke's Church for nearly 50 years; he remained at the church's helm during the neighborhood's steep decline in the 1970s, working with community groups to revive the area and secure affordable housing and a better quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1920 in Manhattan, Monsignor Gerald Ryan moved with his parents, both Irish immigrants, to the Pelham Bay section of the borough, where he was raised; he joined the priesthood in 1945, and settled at St. Luke's parish in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated, Monsignor Gerald Ryan was a true fixture in the neighborhood; a leader in both the Catholic community and the South Bronx, he faithfully continued to serve in the ministry even after he reached the retirement age of 75 for priests; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Monsignor Gerald Ryan leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of The Reverend Monsignor Gerald Ryan, the oldest serving priest in New York City; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of The Reverend Monsignor Gerald Ryan.