

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating St. Athanasius Parish in Brooklyn, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2013

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 congratulating St. Athanasius Parish in Brooklyn, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2013; and

WHEREAS, On December 7, 1913, Father Eugene Donnelly celebrated Mass in a building on 62nd Street in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, New York; with that sacred act, St. Athanasius Parish was born; and

WHEREAS, Less than one year later, the first St. Athanasius Parish church was built; and

WHEREAS, Building of the St. Athanasius Parish church continued through the Great Depression as a school, community center and convent were added to the parish; at that time, the Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood, began their long association with the St. Athanasius family; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, construction was begun on the magnificent current St. Athanasius Parish church building; finished in 1963, it is now on Bay Parkway and has become the center of parish life; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, St. Athanasius Parish has adapted to the ever-changing needs of its people and embarked on periods of outreach: Mass began to be celebrated in English instead of Latin, giving the congregation a real sense of participation; the folk Mass was introduced; singing to the strum of the guitar and the beat of a tambourine laid the ground work for an expanding music ministry and the establishment of two vibrant charismatic prayer groups; and

WHEREAS, Some of the oldest societies at St. Athanasius Parish include: The Holy Name Society, The Rosary Society and The Society of St. Vincent de Paul; and

WHEREAS, Early in its history, St. Athanasius Parish started an Italian apostolate, celebrating Mass in Italian in the Lower Church with an Italian Choir; as the years progressed and the demographics of the community changed, Korean and Spanish Apostolates were added; and

WHEREAS, Currently, St. Athanasius Parish offers Masses in English, Italian, and Spanish; in addition, the Korean Community recently moved to the neighboring parish of Holy Spirit on 45th Street and 17th Avenue; and

WHEREAS, St. Athanasius Parish has a thriving grammar school serving Catholic and non-Catholic children alike with an innovative religious education program, serving children, their families and adults; and

WHEREAS, Standing on the threshold of tomorrow, St. Athanasius Parish in Brooklyn, New York, is 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 congratulate St. Athanasius Parish in Brooklyn, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2013, 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. Athanasius Parish in Brooklyn, New York.