

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Argentinean Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio upon the occasion of being elected His Holiness Pope Francis, the 266th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize extraordinary individuals of firm belief and commitment who have devoted their purposeful lives to the service of faith and community, and whose spiritual existence and holy actions serve to inspire people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Argentinean Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio upon the occasion of being elected His Holiness Pope Francis, the 266th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, in the Sistene Chapel at the Vatican, Rome, Italy, on Wednesday, March 13, 2013; his formal Installation will be held Tuesday, March 19, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The 76 year-old Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio is the son of an Italian railway worker; setting a tone of simplicity and pastoral humility, he is the first pope from the Americas and the first from the Jesuit order; and

WHEREAS, Initially trained as a chemist, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio taught literature, psychology, philosophy and theology before taking over as Buenos Aires Archbishop in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio's ecclesiastical roots are founded in Latin America, which accounts for approximately 40 percent of the world's Roman Catholics; in 2001, he was elevated to serve as Argentina's top Catholic church official; 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 custom 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 individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Argentinean Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio upon the occasion of being elected His Holiness Pope Francis, the 266th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, and to celebrate with Catholics throughout the world upon the election of their new spiritual leader; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New York State Catholic Conference.