

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish

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 Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady Star of the Sea began in 1916, as a small mission church of Our Lady Help of Christians Church on the South Shore of Staten Island; the population of Staten Island at that time was less than 100,000 people, and the South Shore was the least densely populated in the county; and

WHEREAS, The parish of Our Lady Help of Christians and its mission parish attended to the spiritual needs of the people living in its neighboring towns; during this time, there was a growth spurt due to improved transportation in the area; and

WHEREAS, In 1930, the status of the mission church of Our Lady Help of Christians changed and Our Lady Star of the Sea became a parish in its own right; and

WHEREAS, Staten Island continued to grow and saw a huge influx of residents in 1964, with the opening of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, connecting Staten Island to Brooklyn and the rest of New York City; and

WHEREAS, The original church building of Our Lady Star of the Sea quickly became too small for the growing parish and as a result, a new church was constructed; the parish opened a school in 1959, its inaugural year, with approximately 500 children; growth continued for many years and an addition was built onto the original school building in 1969; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, the construction of the parish's second church was completed and it was at capacity from the days the doors opened, twelve years later, the school expanded again and opened a preschool to serve the needs of more than 900 local children; and

WHEREAS, An athletic center and soccer field were built in 2002, to meet the needs of an ever growing athletic program which served more than 1,500 children at the time of these facilities were dedication; in 2010, a new 1,100 seat church, the third in its history, was opened to a congregation who had longed for the space needed for its growing Catholic community; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception a century ago, Our Lady Star of the Sea has been a vibrant, welcoming parish that has served and continues to serve the local community of Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous direction of Reverend Thomas P. Devery, Our Lady Star of the Sea's Sunday liturgies serve more than 4,200 people each week; there are nearly 40 Lectors, more than 180 Eucharistic Ministers, and 118 altar servers who serve 4,100 active families in the parish in their respective ministries; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Thomas P. Devery, Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Staten Island, New York.