

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 175th Anniversary of St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church of Utica, 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 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 is justly proud to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church of Utica, New York; this momentous occasion will be celebrated with a Mass and Luncheon with Bishop Cunningham presiding, on Sunday, May 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph Church is older than any Diocese in the state except for New York City, under whose Bishop, Most Reverend John DuBoise, 1826 to 1842, the Church was organized; in the early nineteenth century Catholics of German origin were found in and around Utica, New York and they wished for a Church and a Priest of their own; and

WHEREAS, The Committee of Trustees purchased the First Methodist Episcopal Church on Lafayette Street on October 15, 1840; and

WHEREAS, On April 23, 1847, the Diocese of Albany was established during which time a site was established on St. Joseph Street to the Church and was the first record of a cemetery belonging to the Church; and

WHEREAS, A Ladies Society for the maintenance of the Altar was established on November 25th of the same year, and is now known as the Altar Rosary Society; and

WHEREAS, A new Church building was started in 1870, and the first priest's residence was built against the Church wall of the eastern transept; on May 7, 1871, the cornerstone of this new Church was laid by the Right Reverend Theodore Noethen, Vicar General of the Diocese Albany; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, on November 9, 1873, the present Church was dedicated by Bishop Francis McNierney, Coadjutor Bishop of Albany; and

WHEREAS, St. Patrick Church was established in 1848, and one year later in December, a small chapel was erected; cornerstone of a new Church was laid by Bishop John McCloskey the evening of July 13, 1851, and its first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Day; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph and St. Patrick Churches were merged in 1966, at the former St. Joseph Church; the first Pastor of the merged Churches was the Reverend Colman Greevy, with the first Mass of the merged Churches celebrated on September 4th of that same year; and

WHEREAS, Located on Columbia Street in Utica, New York, St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church has been under the luminous direction of the Reverend Richard Dellos since July 9, 2002; and

WHEREAS, At present, St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church stands humbly, prayerfully, meditatively and joyfully; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church 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 175th Anniversary of St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Richard Dellos, St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church,

Utica, New York.