

BY: Senator JACOBS

COMMEMORATING the 175th Anniversary of Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church of Hamburg, 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 this 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 175th Anniversary of Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church of Hamburg, New York; and

WHEREAS, The parish, formally known as Saints Peter and Paul's German Catholic Church of Hamburg, New York, was founded in 1844 by 22 German men who settled in Hamburg's fertile farmland; prior to this time, Catholic families traveled to St. Louis Church in Buffalo or to East Eden to attend mass; and

WHEREAS, With the death of East Eden pastor, Reverend Johann Nicholas Mertz in 1844, Hamburg families formed a separate congregation in White's Corners, present day village of Hamburg; and

WHEREAS, The first church building on the corner of East Main and Pine Streets was purchased from the Freewill Baptist or Thilerite congregation on June 11, 1845, for the sum of \$650; two years later, Redemptorist priests from St. Mary's Church in Buffalo journeyed to Hamburg every second Sunday to say mass in Hamburg; and

WHEREAS, In 1860, Reverend George Pax raised funds to build a new brick church with a tower and the old wooden church was moved to its present site at 239 East Main Street; this second church was dedicated on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, June 19, 1863; and

WHEREAS, Notable early pastors include Reverend Vincenz Scheffels, who purchased the cemetery in 1875, and served as pastor on three different occasions, and Reverend Andrew Frey who wrote "An Historical Sketch of SS. Peter and Paul Parish" in 1900; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Anthony Bornefeld served as pastor from 1908 until his death on April 7, 1920; he was the force who built the present Romanesque style church in 1910, and he is remembered today through his gift of two stained glass windows of Saints Francis Xavier and Catharine, named after his parents, and by the magnificent enameled chalice he donated to the church; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Anthony Veit became pastor on May 7, 1920, and served for 37 years; and

WHEREAS, Today, Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church offers numerous programs and ministries for the needs of its 3,500 member families; over 216 boys and girls attend its community school and nearly 1,000 children attend weekly religious education; and

WHEREAS, Many groups such as the St. Vincent DePaul Society, Parish Outreach and the Altar and Rosary Society spread the gospel as they minister to the Hamburg community, making Saints Peter and Paul Parish a vibrant community for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Reverend Arthur Mattulke, Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic 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 Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church of Hamburg, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Arthur Mattulke, Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, Hamburg, New York.