

Senate Resolution No. 1913

BY: Senator HINCHEY

MOURNING the death of Reverend Frank Alagna, distinguished citizen, admired advocate, and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Frank Alagna (lovingly referred to as Father Frank) of Rhinecliff, New York, died on Saturday, November 29, 2025, at the age of 80; and

WHEREAS, Born in Brooklyn to Marie Incivilito and Anthony Alagna, Father Frank grew up in a close-knit family of Sicilian immigrants and grew up to distinguish himself through his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community and his work to uplift the disempowered and disenfranchised; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 17, Father Frank entered Maryknoll Seminary in Westchester County, New York; he was ordained as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church in 1971, and his first assignments took him to Seattle and Hong Kong, where he studied and worked with refugee communities; and

WHEREAS, After earning a doctorate in psychology at the University of Connecticut, Father Frank was received as a priest into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Paul Moore, Jr. in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Father Frank combined priestly ministry with counseling throughout his service as vicar of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Staatsburg for 18 years, interim at St. Andrew and St. Luke Episcopal Church in Beacon for two years, and as vicar and rector of Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church in Kingston for 13 years; and

WHEREAS, Father Frank answered a true calling to ministry and social justice, helping to lead Kingston's declaration as a Sanctuary City and co-founding the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network in 2017, where he spent years advocating for the dignity, safety, and wellbeing of the immigrant families in his community; and

WHEREAS, Father Frank was a critical leader in the effort to fight back against fear and exclusion, building a grassroots response offering sanctuary and support for immigrant families in Ulster County; furthermore, Father Frank inspired hundreds of volunteers to serve their neighbors with compassion and care; he was the guiding force in bringing together a coalition united by a shared commitment to safeguarding human rights and supplying mutual aid to all; and

WHEREAS, Through his tireless work with the Ulster Immigrant Defense

Network and his pastoral ministry at the bilingual parish Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church and other congregations, he touched thousands of lives by offering protection, advocacy, and material support; Father Frank helped countless families navigate complex legal and social systems with grace, courage, and a welcoming smile; and

WHEREAS, Father Frank's ministry embodied the belief that we must "be doers of the word, and not hearers only" and that true justice is demonstrated when we welcome, shelter, and accept the stranger, the sojourner, and the marginalized; and

WHEREAS, Father Frank spoke truth to power about the systems that harmed the most vulnerable and continually called for fairness and safe harbor, epitomizing the call to recognize our shared humanity, irrespective of status, race, or creed; and

WHEREAS, His spirit of caring for others brought people from every walk of life together to stand up for every person's right to be treated with basic human dignity, regardless of origin, declaring as a call to action "if you have a conscience, now is the time to use it"; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a deep sense of compassion, Father Frank leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to salute the life and mourn the death of Father Frank, distinguished citizen, principled advocate, and beloved member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Reverend Frank Alagna.