LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Maryknoll Sisters

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this great Empire State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of society at large; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Maryknoll Sisters, to be celebrated with an opening liturgy on Sunday, January 8, 2012 at the Maryknoll Sisters Center in Ossining, New York; and

WHEREAS, Maryknoll was founded by the Reverend James Walsh of Boston, Massachusetts, and the Reverend Thomas Price of Wilmington, North Carolina, who met in 1910 at a conference in Montreal, Canada; the following year they traveled together to Rome, Italy, and on June 29, 1911, received Pope Pius X's blessing for the formation of The Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, now better known as the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers; and

WHEREAS, The Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, or simply Maryknoll Sisters, are a religious group of Roman Catholic women founded in Ossining, Westchester County, New York, in 1912, six months after the 1911 creation of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers; until 1954, when they became a pontifical institute, the order was known as the Foreign Mission Sisters of St. Dominic; the Sisters use the suffix "M.M." after their names; and

WHEREAS, The order was founded by Mother Mary Joseph (nee Mary Josephine Rogers), from Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts; she was a 1905 graduate of Smith College; and

WHEREAS, The Sisters profess the evangelical counsels and devote their lives in service overseas; they currently have more than 500 members from diverse cultural backgrounds serving in a variety of fields including medicine, communications, education, agriculture, social services and spiritual formation; and

WHEREAS, The Sisters serve the needs of the people where they are missioned, in 30 different countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, Some of the schools the Sisters founded are the following: Maryknoll Convent School in Kowloon, Hong Kong; Marymount Secondary School in Happy Valley, Hong Kong; Miriam College in Quezon City, Philippines; and Maryhill College in Lucena City, Philippines; and

WHEREAS, The Maryknoll Sisters stand 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 100th Anniversary of the Maryknoll Sisters, fully confident that this observance reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Maryknoll Sisters.