

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Pity Parish, of Staten Island, New York, in September 2014

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, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Pity Parish, of Staten Island, New York; the culmination of its year-long Jubilee Celebration will be held in September 2014; and

WHEREAS, On Christmas Day 1913, Father Louis Riccio, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, opened one of his twelve missions by celebrating Mass in a private home in Bulls Head, Staten Island, New York, under the title and patronage of Our Lady of Pity, the Sorrowful Mother; this out-mission served the Italian residents of the community until September of 1919, when a small prefabricated chapel was dedicated on Summer Avenue with Our Lady of Mount Carmel as the Mother Church; and

WHEREAS, In the summer of 1923, the Mission became a canonically established Italian National Parish to serve the many immigrants moving to Bulls Head; Father John Gallo served as the first pastor until his return to his native Italy, and his successors have all continued in the fine work of building this small Italian Mission into the great parish it is today; and

WHEREAS, City planning for the Staten Island Expressway after the construction of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge called for a new location and new buildings, and in May of 1956, Monsignor Ricotti purchased thirteen acres of land and oversaw the construction of a new Gym and Rectory; the extra property not mapped out for any projected parish facilities was donated by the parish to the Archdiocese for the furtherance of Catholic education in Staten Island and it is upon this property that Moore Catholic High School now stands; and

WHEREAS, The critical need for a Church building was met by Monsignor Mazziotta who in 1988, saw the dedication of the present Church by John Cardinal O'Connor; the completion of the Church altars, sanctuary and chapel were realized under the pastorate of Monsignor Franceschini and solemnly consecrated by Cardinal O'Connor in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Pity Parish continued to grow over the years, requiring ever more space to accommodate activities for youth in religious education, senior citizens, choirs, sports and youth program, and many societies; in 1998, a state-of-the-arts Parish Center dedicated on September 9, 1998 and named in honor of John Cardinal O'Connor; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Pity 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; 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 Our Lady of Pity Parish, fully confident that this commemoration 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 Our Lady of Pity Parish.