

**BY:** Senator LANZA

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 4, 2019, as Mother Teresa Day in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor extraordinary individuals whose lifework, spiritual leadership and guidance served to enhance the quality of life for others; and

**WHEREAS,** Mother Teresa was one such individual; truly the model of compassion and charity, she served the needs of the sick and the poorest of the poor; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 4, 2019, as Mother Teresa Day in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Mother Teresa was declared a Saint on September 4, 2016, at a canonization ceremony conducted at the Vatican in Rome, Italy; and

**WHEREAS,** Born on August 26, 1910, in Skopje, now capital of the Republic of Macedonia, to Albanians, Nikolle and Dranafile Bojaxhiu, Mother Teresa was baptized as Gonxha Agnes; and

**WHEREAS,** At the age of 18, she moved to Ireland and joined the Sisters of Loreto at Loreto Abbey in Rathfarnham, Ireland; and

**WHEREAS,** She left for India in the year 1929, and started her novitiate at a convent in Darjeeling, India; it was there she learned Bengali, one of the main spoken languages in Kolkata, and began teaching at St. Teresa's School; and

**WHEREAS,** On May 24, 1931, Mother Teresa took her first religious vows and adopted the name Sister Mary Teresa; it was while serving as a teacher at the Loreto Convent School in Entally, Kolkata, that she started focusing her attention on the poverty surrounding her in the state; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1948, Mother Teresa started her missionary work with the poor; it was then she replaced her traditional Loreto habit with the iconic blue-bordered cotton sari; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2015, Pope Francis announced that the Church would be declaring Mother Teresa as a Saint after the Church recognized a second miracle attributed to Mother; a man from Brazil who was afflicted with multiple brain tumors got healed after praying to Mother Teresa; the first miracle was that of a 30-year old Kolkata woman getting healed of her stomach tumor after praying to the Mother Teresa; both the miracles occurred after her death; and

**WHEREAS,** In both cases, no scientific healing explanations could be found by the Vatican committee; it was Pope John Paul II who approved the first miracle and paved the Mother's path to Sainthood; and

**WHEREAS,** Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic religious congregation, which in 2012, consisted of over 4,500 sisters and was active in 133 countries; and

**WHEREAS,** Sister Christi, a senior sister at the Missionaries of Charity, believes that the canonization of Mother Teresa would help to spread Mother Teresa's vital message 'to serve the poor'; and

**WHEREAS,** The recipient of countless awards and accolades, in 1979 Mother Teresa received a Nobel Peace Prize for her missionary work in serving the needs of the sick and the poorest of the poor; in addition, on August 28, 2010, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of her birth, the government of India issued a special 5 Rupee coin, being the sum she first arrived with in India; President Pratibha Patil said of Mother Teresa, "Clad in a white sari with a blue border, she and the sisters of Missionaries of Charity became a symbol of hope to many including the aged, the destitute, the unemployed, the diseased, the terminally ill, and those abandoned by their families"; and

**WHEREAS,** Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997, at the age of 87, in Calcutta, West Bengal, India; the selflessness she demonstrated throughout her life, and the intensity of her efforts to help others are evidence that she truly made a difference in the world and will long be remembered; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 4, 2019, as Mother Teresa Day in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.