

BY: Senator SCARCELLA-SPANTON

COMMEMORATING the 45th Anniversary of the death of Dorothy Day, venerable Catholic lay leader, journalist, and co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize significant anniversaries that commemorate the lives of extraordinary individuals whose moral vision and steadfast commitment to justice have left an enduring impact on the people of the State of New York and the world; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the death of Dorothy Day; this momentous occasion was recognized with a memorial Mass, including prayers devoted to Day's canonization, on Saturday, November 29, 2025, at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in New Brighton, New York; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Day, who died at age 83 on November 29, 1980, continues to be evaluated for sainthood in the Catholic Church and is recognized as a Servant of God, the first step in the multi-stage canonization process; and

WHEREAS, Born in Brooklyn Heights, Dorothy Day maintained a deep and abiding connection to Staten Island throughout her life; following her conversion to Catholicism, she was baptized in 1927 at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Tottenville; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Day spent her youth and adult summers at Annadale Beach and resided at her home on the corner of Zephyr and Poillon Avenues, where she prayed, wrote, and welcomed neighbors in keeping with her commitment to hospitality; and

WHEREAS, Together with Catholic Worker co-founder Peter Maurin, Dorothy Day operated a cooperative farm on Bloomingdale Road in Pleasant Plains from 1950 to 1964, a living expression of the movement's principles of voluntary poverty, communal labor, and service to the poor; and

WHEREAS, In later years she continued to spend her summers at Spanish Camp in Annadale, further strengthening her ties to Staten Island, where she is now interred at Resurrection Cemetery in Pleasant Plains; and

WHEREAS, The Catholic Worker Movement began in 1933 during the Great Depression, when Dorothy Day, influenced by Peter Maurin's personalist philosophy and her Catholic faith, published the first issue of The Catholic Worker newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Sold for a penny, The Catholic Worker quickly became a prominent voice for economic justice, workers' rights, direct aid to the

poor, and Christian pacifism, helping to spark a nationwide movement devoted to the Works of Mercy and nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, As the movement expanded, Dorothy Day-who openly embraced Christian anarchism, the Church's preferential option for the poor, and distributism as an alternative to both socialism and capitalism-became one of the most influential Catholic lay leaders of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, The Catholic Worker upheld its pacifist principles and supported conscientious objectors, solidifying the movement's reputation for moral clarity and courage in times of national crisis; and

WHEREAS, Today, more than 200 Catholic Worker houses of hospitality operate around the world, each shaped by local needs but unified by the founding principles articulated by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin-mercy, solidarity, nonviolence, and the belief in the inherent dignity of every person; and

WHEREAS, The Staten Island Catholic Worker, founded two years ago by Deborah Sucich and headquartered at St. Peter's Church, continues this proud tradition, offering direct service to those in need and keeping alive Dorothy Day's legacy of radical hospitality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the death of Dorothy Day, to honor her profound contributions to social justice, peace, and the spiritual life of New York State and the nation, and to recognize the Catholic Worker of Staten Island for its efforts to preserve and celebrate her memory; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Catholic Worker of Staten Island and to St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, New Brighton, New York.