Senate Resolution No. 2139

BY: Senator GRIFFO

congratulating Father Tom Durant upon the occasion of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State are nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Father Tom Durant upon the occasion of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination, to be celebrated in 2026; and

WHEREAS, Father Tom Durant, originally from Vernon Center, New York, and now residing in Whitesboro, New York, is a passionate religious leader with a strong commitment to supporting his congregation and broader community; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, when Father Tom Durant was ordained, he celebrated his first Mass in Oriskany Falls, New York; he later helped to lead St. Paul's Catholic Church in North Utica, New York, as Pastor; and

WHEREAS, In the 1970s, Father Tom Durant's home parish, St. Agnes in Vernon Center, closed and St. Catherine's in Vernon burned down; in the aftermath of these losses, he learned firsthand how powerful and essential being a member of a congregation is; and

WHEREAS, To Father Tom Durant, one of the most notable and significant parts of the church is the tremendous spirit and love that radiates within the community; and

WHEREAS, Father Tom Durant has always given guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has ministered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, Despite retiring from his role at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Father Tom Durant remains committed to service and religious devotion; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his lifetime, Father Tom Durant has demonstrated his unremitting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community through his daily actions; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention, it

is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Father Tom Durant upon the occasion of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Father Tom Durant.