

2013-J4104

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring The Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard upon the occasion of his retirement as Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

WHEREAS, The spiritual guidance and nurturing of the citizens of the State of New York is of great importance to the vitality and well-being of our communities; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals of religious commitment who accept the responsibility of moral leadership and render the wisdom of human understanding; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor The Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard upon the occasion of his retirement as Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany; his long and distinguished service to his community will conclude effective April 10, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Howard Hubbard is the longest-tenured bishop of a single diocese in the nation; he has provided spiritual guidance to the hundreds of thousands of Roman Catholics living in the 14 counties that comprise the Albany, New York, diocese for nearly four decades; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Howard James Hubbard was born in Troy, New York, in 1938, the son of Howard J. Hubbard and Elizabeth D. Burke; raised in the Lansingburgh section of Troy, he completed his early education at Catholic schools before undertaking his religious training at Mater Christi Minor Seminary in Albany, St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, New York, and Gregorian University in Rome, Italy; he completed his post graduate studies at Catholic University in Washington DC, in the School of Social Service; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Howard Hubbard was ordained to the priesthood on December 18, 1963, and, from 1964 to 1977 lived out his faith and his commitment to social justice with a ministry that included parish, inner-city and diocesan assignments; and

WHEREAS, As a street priest in Albany's impoverished South End neighborhood, he strove vigorously to make a difference in the lives of those on society's margins; he drove alcoholics and heroin addicts to detox and pleaded with hospitals to take them in at a time when there were no formal programs; he found apartments for people who had no place to live, long before the term "homeless" was coined; and co-founded Providence House and Hope House, a storefront center for social services; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Howard Hubbard served as associate pastor at St. Joseph's in Schenectady, and Cathedral in Albany, as well as chaplain for Kenwood Convent of the Sacred Heart, Albany; he was assistant director for Catholic Charities in Schenectady, and worked as director of Providence House, Albany; in addition, he was involved in the creation of LIVCORP hostels for mentally handicapped, was coordinator of Urban Apostolate, chair of the diocesan Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and Priests' Personnel Board, and director of the Office of Pastoral Planning for the diocese; and

WHEREAS, On February 1, 1977, he was named the ninth Bishop of Albany by Pope Paul VI, and was ordained as such on March 27, 1977, at Siena College in Loudonville, New York; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Howard Hubbard was the first native of the Albany Diocese to serve as its Bishop, and, as the youngest bishop in the United States at the time, was dubbed "the boy bishop"; and

WHEREAS, This wise and humble leader has shepherded the Albany Diocese through a time of enormous challenge and change, weathering a signif-

icant decline in resources and vocations to the priesthood, national scandal and the need to close parishes and schools, while at the same time fostering opportunities for unprecedented participation by lay

persons, forging new partnerships in order to address social crises including the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and drawing disaffected members of the Roman Catholic community back into the fold through innovative outreach methods and programs; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Bishop Howard Hubbard has served his community by lending his leadership skills to many civic associations, including Urban League of Albany, National Catholic AIDS Network, New York State Labor/Religion Coalition, New Yorkers for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, Inmate Family Visiting Fund, South End Health Association, Arbor House Halfway Community for Women, Albany County Visiting Nurse Association and Albany Chapter of the American Red Cross among many others; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Howard Hubbard has also served his faith on a national level, chairing the NCCB Committee on Human Values, the NCCB Committee on Marriage and the Family, and the Public Policy Committee of the New York State Catholic Conference; serving as Episcopal Moderator for the National Catholic AIDS Network and National Conference of Pastoral Planning and Parish Council Development; and as a member of several USCCB committees; and

WHEREAS, The central themes of this devoted man of God's long and distinguished tenure as Bishop of the Albany Diocese were social justice, lay leadership and interfaith dialogue; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Howard Hubbard leaves behind a tremendous legacy: of interfaith cooperation and building bridges between the Catholic and Jewish communities, of embracing society's most marginalized communities, and of focusing on forgiveness rather than punishment; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Howard Hubbard will be long remembered for his many good works to those who are in need spiritually and otherwise, and his leadership by example; he has been and continues to be an outstanding inspirational leader and role model for all members of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

honor The Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, noting his unremitting and compassionate faith and his service to God, humanity, and his community; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard.