

2013-J4270

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Bay Ridge, New York

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 50th Anniversary of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Bay Ridge, New York; this momentous occasion will be celebrated with a Gala on Saturday, May 10, 2014, at Terrace on the Park, Flushing, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church had its origin in early 1956 when a small group of dedicated men convened and unanimously agreed there was a definite need for a Greek Orthodox Church in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn; these seven men subsequently became the founding fathers of the church; and

WHEREAS, The certificate of incorporation was signed in New York on November 29, 1957 and was filed with the clerk of the County of Kings on January 21, 1958; and

WHEREAS, The Archdiocese assigned Father Basil Gregory to the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in August of 1964, and by September of the same year, construction began in the establishment of a new home for the church; and

WHEREAS, The Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church was officially named on November 16, 1965, and upon its completion, the official opening of the church was on Sunday, March 13, 1966 at which time the cornerstone of the church was cemented in place; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1967, Father Gregory announced his need to step down, and on August 1, 1967, Father Charles Sarelis took over as Priest of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church; and

WHEREAS, From 1969 to 1973 the number of members more than doubled from just under 300 to over 600 members; today, the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church is led under the luminous direction of Very Reverend Father Gerasimos Makris; and

WHEREAS, The Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church 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 50th Anniversary of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Bay Ridge, New York, 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 Very Reverend Father Gerasimos Makris, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Bay Ridge, New York.