

## 2015-J418

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Blessed Sacrament Parish upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Sister Maureen Joyce Distinguished Service Award on February 17, 2015

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 is justly proud to honor Blessed Sacrament Parish upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Sister Maureen Joyce Distinguished Service Award by the Sister Maureen Joyce Center to be celebrated at its 3rd Annual Dinner at Wolferts Roost Country Club, Albany, New York, on Tuesday, February 17, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The Sister Maureen Joyce Distinguished Service Award is given annually to persons, organizations, and businesses which have demonstrated commitment to the spirit of the Sister Maureen Joyce Center through their outreach or advocacy on behalf of the poor and vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1902, Blessed Sacrament Parish has long been a staple of life in the West End of Albany, and it remains at the center of an active and generous community of those who support the poor and vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed religious institution also includes the Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Americas, a special ministry for our Hispanic Community, as well as parishioners who are from the previous Holy Family, St. Patrick's, and Our Lady of Angels Parishes; and

WHEREAS, Blessed Sacrament Parish is committed to meeting the spiritu-

al and material needs of the community; its numerous programs include a vibrant K-8 school which serves local children, a food pantry program, and a thrift shop; and

WHEREAS, Blessed Sacrament Parish also owns and maintains St. Casmir's Convent where a second food pantry is available for its neighborhood which is operated as part of the Center; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Blessed Sacrament Parish operates the Poverello Center, a health clinic staffed by volunteer physicians, nurses and chaplains, which provides high quality care to uninsured adults in the immediate community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those enduring religious institutions who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Blessed Sacrament Parish upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Sister Maureen Joyce Distinguished Service Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Blessed Sacrament Parish.