

2015-J511

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of St. Mark's Parish in Utica, 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 esteemed places of worship which have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of St. Mark's Parish in Utica, New York, to be celebrated at a special reception on Sunday, October 5, 2014; and

WHEREAS, St. Mark's Parish was first established a half a century ago to meet the needs of a rapidly growing Catholic population in North Utica; Bishop Cunningham of the Diocese of Syracuse divided the parish of St. Peter's and created a new church community in its eastern section; and

WHEREAS, Named after St. Peter's traveling companion in the spread of the Gospel, St. Mark's Parish was founded by Father William Dwyer, who directed the building of the church and served as its first pastor; prior to construction, masses for the new parish were held in the basement of St. Peter's; and

WHEREAS, On May 21, 1964, Father Dwyer celebrated the first service in St. Mark's new church building, which was dedicated by Bishop Foery; it has since grown into a vibrant and compassionate religious community; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to the volunteering spirit and generosity of its parishioners, numerous improvements have been made to church facilities, including the addition of classrooms for religious education in the

1970s, construction of a new rectory in 1982, and a major sanctuary restoration project in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, St. Mark's Parish has constantly evolved to meet the needs of the people it so faithfully serves; and

WHEREAS, St. Mark's Parish 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 St. Mark's Parish, 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 the Church of St. Mark's Parish, Utica, New York.