

## 2015-J447

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Sisters of St. Joseph for their steadfast dedication to St. Christopher's Parish

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those men and women 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 Sisters of St. Joseph for their steadfast dedication to St.

Christopher's Parish, to be celebrated at its 100th Anniversary Dinner Dance on Sunday, April 19, 2015, at Coral House, Baldwin, New York; and

WHEREAS, In the hills circling the village of LePuy, France, 360 years ago, a young priest and a group of women came together with a shared and profound love for others, as well as a vision of union with God and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, This vision was to be achieved through prayer, service and reconciling love; the concept of a non-cloistered congregation including women of all classes and all backgrounds was unique in its time; and

WHEREAS, Small groups of these women spread throughout France where they earned a livelihood making lace, while devoting themselves to their goal of "dividing the city, seeking out its ills and curing them"; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, in 1650 in LePuy, France, the group was established as a religious foundation by Bishop de Maupas; and

WHEREAS, The vitality and expansion of the Congregation continued until it was abruptly halted by the French Revolution; convents were closed, and Sisters were disbanded or were thrown into prison; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of the Revolution, the Sisters of St. Joseph were re-founded by Mother St. John, and once again the Congre-

gation flourished, enabling them to spread throughout the region; and WHEREAS, In 1836, a request came from the Bishop of Missouri for the Sisters of St. Joseph to come to America to teach deaf children; and WHEREAS, Subsequently, three Sisters were sent to Carondelet, Missouri, to establish a foundation and a school; the first United States ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph was the education of deaf children; and

WHEREAS, The Congregation spread throughout the heartland of the United States and to the west and east coasts; as their foremothers, these Sisters sought out the needs of the city, and worked to alleviate them; and

WHEREAS, In 1856, at the request of the Bishop of Brooklyn, Mother Austin Kean came from Philadelphia to Brooklyn to found what is now the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, New York; and

WHEREAS, For more than 150 years, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood have been faithful to the original vision, and have served the people of Long Island from the docks of Red Hook in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, to Long Island's eastern shore; and

WHEREAS, When the needs of people called, Sisters were sent to Appalachia, other parts of the United States, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, the Sisters of St. Joseph continue to foster love, unity and reconciliation among all people and with this blessed earth; and

WHEREAS, Spiritual guidance and nurturing are of great import to the vitality and well-being of all people and every community of this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Instrumental in that deliverance are those men and women of religious commitment who accept the responsibility of moral leadership and render the wisdom of human understanding; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individ-

uals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Sisters of St. Joseph for their steadfast dedication to St.

Christopher's Parish; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Sisters of St. Joseph.