

2015-J905

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 140th Anniversary of the Church of Saint Mary, Newburgh, New York, to be celebrated on March 15, 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 takes pleasure in commemorating the 140th Anniversary of the Church of Saint Mary, Newburgh, New York, to be celebrated at a Dinner Reception to be held on Sunday, March 15, 2015, at the Meadowbrook Lodge, New Windsor, New York; and

WHEREAS, Led by the Reverend Michael J. Phelan, The Church of St. Mary was founded on March 19, 1875; on Easter Sunday of the same year, the first Mass was held in the Opera House on Second Street; and

WHEREAS, Later that year, Father Michael J. Phelan purchased a house on South Street and transformed it into the Rectory and a permanent residence; and

WHEREAS, In 1876, the St. Mary Literary Society was founded with James J. Dougherty acting as its first President; and

WHEREAS, The Church of St. Mary's congregation continued to grow; realizing a larger church needed to be built, Father Michael J. Phelan planned and directed all the arrangements for a more accommodating establishment; in 1879, Bishop Lynch of Charleston, South Carolina, laid the cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, In October of 1880, along with Father Michael J. Phelan and fellow Priests, Archbishop McCloskey dedicated the Church at a Solemn High Mass; and

WHEREAS, Upon Reverend Michael J. Phelan's transfer, the Reverend John C. Henry was appointed to the Church of Saint Mary in September of 1884; during that same year, the first Mission was given by the Redemptorist Fathers and the St. Mary Rosary Society was organized; and

WHEREAS, In 1885, St. Aloysius Society and the Sodality of the Children of Mary were established and two confessionals were erected at the south end of the Church; and

WHEREAS, A year later, 20 men joined the newly formed Holy Names Society and St. Mary's Parochial School, led by four Dominican Sisters, was opened in September; and

WHEREAS, On January 7, 1888, Reverend John C. Henry contracted to have a steam heating system installed in both the Church and the Rectory; a month later, during Lenten Devotions, the Church was heated by steam for the first time; and

WHEREAS, The Vicar General laid the cornerstone of the new parochial school for the eight regular grades, on Sunday, July 15, 1894; all the societies of St. Patrick's and St. Mary's witnessed this auspicious event; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, The Church of St. Mary hosted both Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, formed talented choral groups, and developed a splendid Ushers Society; and

WHEREAS, The Church of Saint Mary 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 140th Anniversary of the Church of Saint Mary of Newburgh, New York, to be celebrated on March 15, 2015, 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 Saint Mary, Newburgh, New York.