

2015-J910

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of His Eminence Cardinal Edward M. Egan, Archbishop Emeritus of New York and noted spiritual leader

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow that this Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is moved this day to pay tribute to a preeminent Catholic leader of indomitable faith and dedication whose purposeful life and accomplishments will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

WHEREAS, A truly sincere and faithful shepherd of the Roman Catholic Church, His Eminence Cardinal Edward M. Egan died on Thursday, March 5, 2015, in Manhattan, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, Born in Oak Park, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, on April 2, 1932, Edward Michael Egan was the third of four children to Thomas and Genevieve Costello Egan, both devout Catholics; and

WHEREAS, In 1943, young Edward contracted polio; although he missed two years at St. Giles Catholic School, he still managed to graduate at the top of his class; and

WHEREAS, In 1951, he graduated from Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary in Chicago; he continued his education and earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, before completing four years of theological studies at Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where he was ordained on December 15, 1957; and

WHEREAS, Assigned to Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, Edward M. Egan taught convert classes and served as a hospital Chaplain; he then became the private secretary to Cardinal Meyer, before being named Assistant Chancellor of the Archdiocese; and

WHEREAS, Edward M. Egan returned to Rome in 1960, to attend Pontifical

Gregorian University; after four years, he earned his Doctorate in Canon Law; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating, he went back to Chicago to serve as Cardinal Cody's secretary and later Co-Chancellor of the Archdiocese, working on interfaith relations and social concerns until 1971 when he, once again, returned to Rome, this time staying until 1985; and

WHEREAS, While in Rome, he worked as a law Professor and later a Judge of the Sacred Roman Rota, part of the Vatican's court system, dealing with marriage annulments and other issues; Edward M. Egan was one of just six lawyers who reviewed Pope John Paul's Code of Canon Law, some 1,750 doctrines governing the church, which was promulgated in 1983; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Edward M. Egan was named Auxiliary Bishop of New York and Vicar of Education for the Archdiocese under Cardinal O'Connor; three years later, he was named Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut, made up of more than 80 parishes, a diverse population of 360,000 Catholics and masses celebrated in 20 languages; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 2000, Edward M. Egan was installed as the ninth Archbishop of New York, the esteemed position he held for nine years until his retirement in 2009; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Archbishop Edward M. Egan was elevated to the Cardinalate by Pope John Paul II at the Consistory of February 21, 2001, becoming the Cardinal-Priest of both Saint John and Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, As Archbishop, Cardinal Edward M. Egan was one of America's most familiar Catholic leaders; he lived his life based on principles and values of compassion, integrity, justice and kindness; his empathy will continue to serve as comfort to those seeking to make the world a more loving and just place; and

WHEREAS, Cardinal Edward M. Egan's legacy will live forever, not only in the many, many lives he touched, but in the good works he has left behind; he reached out to constituents, visiting parishes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, day care centers and other institutions;

furthermore, he wrote columns for Catholic publications and hosted a weekly satellite radio program on church and religious affairs; and WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to celebrate the life of this esteemed religious leader who accepted the responsibilities of moral leadership and who dedicated his life to serving others, and to express its deepest condolences to His Eminence's nieces and nephews; he will truly be missed by all those he befriended and served; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of His Eminence Cardinal Edward M. Egan, Archbishop Emeritus of New York and noted spiritual leader, as well as rejoice in his life, noting his unremitting and compassionate faith in his service to God, man and his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of His Eminence Cardinal Edward M. Egan, and the Archdiocese of New York.