

2015-K337

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Saint Anastasia Parish of Douglaston, 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 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 100th Anniversary of Saint Anastasia Parish of Douglaston, New York; and

WHEREAS, Saint Anastasia is a Roman Catholic Parish which has served the community of Little Neck and Douglaston since 1915; its mission is to proclaim the good news of Christ's love through active involvement, as a Parish community, in works of Charity, Faith, Worship and Justice; and

WHEREAS, The first Pastor of Saint Anastasia Parish was The Reverend Francis J. Uleau; he was succeeded by Reverend John Clark who purchased 20 lots, allowing for the creation of the Church-School and Convent; and

WHEREAS, The first mass celebrated in Saint Anastasia's original church building was on May 18, 1919; years later, a school and gymnasium/auditorium were completed, and an additional 18 lots were purchased; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the building intended to be the gymnasium of the school replaced the original church to become the permanent church for the parish in 1936; and

WHEREAS, In 1945, Reverend Bohag was succeeded by Reverend George F. Helfenstein, during which time the convent was built and dedicated to house 20 sisters who would serve the school; and

WHEREAS, After Reverend Helfenstein's retirement in 1967, he was replaced by Father William T. Smith; during Reverend William Smith's tenure, the present rectory was opened in 1967, and provided much-needed and comfortable living space for the priests of the parish and offices and meeting rooms for the parishioners; and

WHEREAS, Monsignor Michael J. Cantly, S.T.D. succeeded Father Smith in January of 1983; Monsignor Cantly was succeeded in 2004 by Monsignor George J. Ryan, S.T.L., MA., who was then succeeded in 2012 by Reverend Monsignor Anthony F. Sherman, S.T.L.; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous direction of Reverend Monsignor Anthony F. Sherman, this vital parish stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve of its founders; 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 100th Anniversary of Saint Anastasia Parish of Douglaston, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Monsignor Anthony F. Sherman, Saint Anastasia Parish, Douglaston, New York.