

## 2015-J1418

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Sister Joanne Callahan for her many years of service and dedication to Catholic education on Long Island

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals and organizations which distinguish themselves through their unremitting commitment and service to humanity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Sister Joanne Callahan for her many years of service and dedication to Catholic education on Long Island; and

WHEREAS, Sister Joanne Callahan first entered the Sisters of the Ursuline Order of Tildonk in 1967, and professed her final vows as an Ursuline Sister in 1972; and

WHEREAS, After completing her Master's degree in School Counseling at St. John's University, Sister Joanne Callahan received a Professional Diploma from Boston College in Advanced Educational Studies in Catholic School Administration; in addition, she holds a Permanent New York State Certification as School Administrator/Supervisor and School District Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Sister Joanne Callahan began her illustrious career in education as a classroom teacher at St. William the Abbot School in Seaford, New York, and later served as a guidance counselor at St. Mary's High School in Greenwich, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, Sister Joanne Callahan returned to St. William the Abbot School as Principal; her superior administrative skills were

recognized by the Diocese of Rockville Centre, leading to her appointment as Director for Teacher Personnel and Director of Regional School Planning; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman was named Superintendent of Schools by the Diocese of Rockville Centre in 1993; in this capacity, she worked tirelessly to ensure those attending Catholic schools in the diocese were provided the best possible education, inspiring and challenging students in a Christ-centered environment; and

WHEREAS, In her official acts, Sister Joanne Callahan served with loyalty, honor, and distinction; she spearheaded studies which resulted in the establishment of the Elementary Education Commission, which strives to promote effective and efficient school management; and the Tomorrow's Hope Foundation, which has provided scholarship and program funding for students and schools since 2005; and

WHEREAS, Sister Joanne Callahan continues to provide invaluable service to Catholic education in the Diocese of Rockville Centre in her new role as Secretary of Education; and

WHEREAS, Sister Joanne Callahan has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Sister Joanne Callahan has served on the boards of directors of such worthy causes as the Cleary School for the Deaf, Nassau BOCES, the St. John's University Catholic Institute Board, as well as on various committees on the diocesan, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Sister Joanne Callahan has been the recipient of numerous awards for her outstanding service, including the 2001 Administrator of the Year Award from the Nassau BOCES School Library System, the 2005

Leaders in Education Award from St. John's University School of Education, and the 2014 Lighting the Fire Award for Catholic Education from CSAANYS; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Sister Joanne Callahan for her many years of service and dedication to Catholic education on Long Island; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sister Joanne Callahan.