

## 2015-J5563

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Joseph Catholic Church on June 4, 2016

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 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 is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Joseph Catholic Church to be celebrated on Saturday, June 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph Catholic Church had its beginnings in 1880 in the Town of Gardiner in upstate New York; during the early 1850s, the few Catholic residents of the area were served by a priest who came only occasionally from Rondout in Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, The coming of the railroad spurred Gardiner's growth, and by 1875, a large number of businesses were established in the area; some of the leaders of these enterprises and their families moved from the Tuthilltown area into Gardiner, and Catholic services were held in a barn owned by James Clinton; and

WHEREAS, Father Charles Browne, the first resident priest in Gardiner, tore down the Clinton barn in 1880, and used the wood from the barn in the construction of St. Charles Church at Ireland Corners in Gardiner; and

WHEREAS, In 1885, while Father Browne was still pastor of St. Charles in Gardiner, the cornerstone was laid for a church in New Paltz, and in 1891, it was moved to what was to become the site of St. Joseph Catholic Church; Father Joseph Hoey, then pastor of St. Charles, was authorized

to begin construction of the new church to serve the needs of the New Paltz residents and the Catholic students of what is now known as the State University of New York at New Paltz; and

WHEREAS, Construction of St. Joseph Catholic Church was completed in 1893, and dedicated just one year later under Father B. F. Duffy; and

WHEREAS, Father John McGrath was named pastor on October 4, 1894, and by the time Father John Morris was appointed pastor in June of 1899, the church was well established; during the early 1900s, the parish continued to grow and vast improvements were made to the church; and

WHEREAS, Father William Hopkins was pastor during World War I, and he was replaced by the Reverend Harry Curtin who was pastor until 1924, during which time St. Joseph Catholic Church doubled in size; the Reverend William Humphrey replaced Father Curtin and purchased what would become Newman Hall, a large residence for Catholic students at the college; and

WHEREAS, After Father Humphrey's transfer in 1934, Father Christopher McCann took over the pastorate and undertook the renovation of both the St. Charles and St. Joseph churches; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, Newman Hall was renovated and in 1949, St. Joseph's School was officially opened under the direction of the Benedictine Sisters from Elizabeth, New Jersey; the school served approximately 250 Catholic students from grades one through eight until it closed in 1970; and

WHEREAS, The 1950s saw another period of substantial growth in St. Joseph Catholic Church, and with the parish's increased membership, the existing church became too small; construction of the Butler Building addition was completed at St. Joseph's School in the late 1950s, and

under Msgr. Edward Monckton, who became pastor in June of 1960, ground was broken for the new church on February 7, 1965; and

WHEREAS, The cornerstone was laid upon completion of the church in late 1965, and the First Mass was offered on Christmas Eve of the same

year; the new Church was officially dedicated on June 5, 1966, and a new parish center was completed under the pastorate of Father Bill Shannon in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the church hall was renovated in 2005, and continues to be the site of numerous activities including social outreach programs, meeting space, Religious Education, social events, and community events; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph Catholic Church 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 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Joseph Catholic Church on June 4, 2016; and be it further

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