

2015-J5920

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Saint Mel's Roman Catholic Church of Flushing, 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 75th Anniversary of Saint Mel's Roman Catholic Church of Flushing, New York; and

WHEREAS, As part of this auspicious occasion, a Mass of rededication will be held on Friday, September 9, 2016, to be celebrated by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn, New York, as well as a 75th Anniversary Dinner Dance scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2016, at Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston, New York; and

WHEREAS, In February of 1941, Saint Mel's Roman Catholic Parish was founded in an area formerly served by Saint Luke's Parish in Whitestone and Saint Andrew Avellino Parish in Flushing; and

WHEREAS, Named after Saint Mel, the nephew of Saint Patrick, Saint Mel's Parish remained largely undeveloped through the 1940s; once the population of this part of Queens, New York, started growing, the Parish expanded from about 100 families to thousands of families of many backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, From its inception, Saint Mel's Parish has been closely and intimately linked with the particular Flushing community whose spiritual needs it serves, and offers Masses in both English and Italian; and

WHEREAS, Built in 1954, Saint Mel's Roman Catholic Church was reno-

vated in 1980 in accord with liturgical requirements of the Second Vatican Council, and is being renovated again this summer under the direction of Reverend Gerard J. Sauer, the Church's current Pastor; and WHEREAS, Saint Mel's Parish complex includes a school which began in 1960 and serves children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, a rectory and the Church; and WHEREAS, As Saint Mel's Roman Catholic Church celebrates its Anniversary, it will continue building upon 75 years of welcoming all generations, nationalities and cultures to be part of its community, and valuing each person's contribution of time, treasure and talent; and WHEREAS, Saint Mel's Roman 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 75th Anniversary of Saint Mel's Roman Catholic Church of Flushing, New York, 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 Reverend Gerard J. Sauer, Saint Mel's Roman Catholic Church.