

2015-J6093

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Reverend Gus Graap upon the occasion of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Catholic Priesthood in the Carmelite Order

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 custom of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Reverend Gus Graap upon the occasion of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Catholic Priesthood in the Carmelite Order; and

WHEREAS, Born on June 1, 1940, in Mount Vernon, Gus Graap was ordained in St. Albert's Chapel in Middletown, New York, now the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; his first solemn Mass was celebrated in the Transfiguration Church in Tarrytown, where he will have an Anniversary Mass and Celebration on Saturday, June 11, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Father Gus Graap's early ministries were diverse, spending 14 years of his illustrious career working with retreats; when he returned to Middletown in the summer of 1988, he served as director of Lay Carmelites, and was deeply involved in planning and moving into the new Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Wawayanda Avenue; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, Father Gus Graap began a ministry at Mid-Orange and Otisville, two state prisons in Orange County from which he retired in

2015; he also has worked at the Mid-Hudson Forensic Psychiatric Center in New Hampton, the Middletown Psychiatric Center, and the Psychiatric Center in Poughkeepsie; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, for the past eight years Father Gus Graap has done part-time work at the Richard C. Ward Addiction Treatment Center in Goshen; and

WHEREAS, Currently a resident at the Carmelite residence in Bloomingburg, Father Gus Graap celebrates weekend Masses at St. Columba's Church in Chester, and helps at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown; and

WHEREAS, For the past 50 years, Father Gus Graap has rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Catholic Church, earning the admiration, esteem and affection of his congregation, diocese, and community; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as a spiritual leader, Father Gus Graap serves with loyalty, honor and distinction, and is governed by a keen sense of duty and always shows a unique grasp of human problems in his official acts; and

WHEREAS, Father Gus Graap has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Reverend Gus Graap upon the occasion of celebrating the 50th

Anniversary of his Ordination to the Catholic Priesthood in the Carmelite Order; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to the Reverend Gus Graap.