

2015-K1500

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Elizabeth Rowe-Manning upon the occasion of her retirement after nine years of distinguished service to St.

Vincent de Paul Parish, Albany, New York

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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Elizabeth Rowe-Manning upon the occasion of her retirement after nine years of distinguished service to St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, At almost 70, Elizabeth "Betsy" Rowe-Manning has led a colorful life; through the years, she has held many roles such as teacher, curator of an art gallery, director of a diocesan office, and parish life director; and

WHEREAS, A native of Syracuse, New York, Elizabeth Rowe-Manning attended parochial schools, taught by Sisters of St. Joseph; inspired by that religious community, she entered the convent in 1964, and served as an art teacher for fifth- through seventh-graders; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Elizabeth Rowe-Manning, affectionately known as Sister Betsy, earned degrees from The College of Saint Rose in Albany, and La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and held the title of Director of Faith Formation in the Herkimer, New York, area; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Sister Betsy became the first woman and non-priest to serve as the Director of the Diocese's Office of Prayer and Worship, a position she held for a decade; and

WHEREAS, From 1988-2007, Sister Betsy was also the Director of the Diocesan Office of Ministry Formation and Curator for the Visions Gallery, an art gallery which operated in the diocesan Pastoral Center for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, In her role as Director, Sister Betsy has been instrumental in creating requirements and a formation process for candidates who wanted to become Parish Life Directors, leading parishes without a resident priest; years later, she successfully completed the process and became a Parish Life Director; and

WHEREAS, After leaving the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Elizabeth Rowe-Manning married John "Jack" Manning in 2005; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, then-Bishop Howard J. Hubbard selected Elizabeth Rowe-Manning for the position of Parish Life Director for St. Vincent de Paul Church; in this capacity, she did many of the tasks a pastor does at a parish; and

WHEREAS, Although Elizabeth Rowe-Manning did not celebrate Mass, she was responsible for the administration of the 750-household parish in a busy Albany neighborhood; she made sure the buildings and wheelchair ramps were safe and in good condition, and attended every liturgy, where, once a month, she offered a 10-minute reflection; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Elizabeth Rowe-Manning helped arrange for children to receive sacraments, participated in meetings and providing pastoral care to members of the parish; she also worked with heads of ministries and with sacramental ministers; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her tenure, Elizabeth Rowe-Manning has been instrumental in helping the parish grow by about 20 percent; there are parishioners from more than 40 zip codes who attend Mass each weekend; and

WHEREAS, For her steadfast and unremitting commitment to her church community, Elizabeth Rowe-Manning was the first Parish Life Director to receive the Reverend Joyce Steinkraus Giles Pastoral Award by the Ecumenical Capital Area Council of Churches; and

WHEREAS, After her much deserved retirement, Elizabeth Rowe-Manning will be working part-time at McVeigh Funeral Home in Albany, and looks forward to finding a new parish to attend; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Rowe-Manning has brought to her ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting her administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished woman of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to her care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Elizabeth Rowe-Manning upon the occasion of her retirement after nine years of distinguished service to St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Albany, New York, noting her unremitting and compassionate faith and her exemplary service to God, man, and her community, and extending to her the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Elizabeth Rowe-Manning.