

**STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY**  
**BUFFALO, N.Y., JUNE 25TH, 2015 A.D.**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY, That at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County, held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 25th day of June, 2015 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:**

*WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions of Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and*

*WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat was born, raised and educated in Western New York, and is the son of the late Leon and the late Sophie Biernat; and*

*WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat grew up in the Black Rock section of Buffalo, where he belonged to and received all of his sacraments at Assumption Parish; and*

*WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat graduated from Assumption Grammar School (now called Our Lady of Black Rock) and Riverside High School, and received his Bachelor Degree of Science in accounting from Canisius College in 1987; and*

*WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat entered Christ the King Seminary immediately after finishing his degree at Canisius and graduated with his Master of Divinity Degree in 1991; and*

*WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat was ordained a Deacon on June 22, 1991 at St. Joseph's Cathedral and assigned to Nativity Parish on Main Street in Clarence, New York; and*

*WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat was ordained a Priest at his home parish of Assumption on May 30, 1992, and was assigned to serve at Holy Spirit Parish in North Buffalo on June 12, 1992; and*

*WHEREAS, during Father Leon J. Biernat's twenty-three years as a priest, he has served in many capacities: Vice President of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors from September 2005 to September 2007; Trustee of Cardinal O'Hara High School for three years; Chaplain to Cardinal O'Hara High School; faculty member for the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program; member of the Lancaster Town Youth Board from 2006 to 2014; and member of the Board of Trustees for nine years for Christ the King Seminary; and*

*WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat's main focus of ministry has been working with youth, and his joyful enthusiasm and success with young Catholics was recognized by Bishop Mansell, who appointed him Director of Vocations in 1999, where he established the St. Joseph Club for high school men to discern a call to the priesthood and to bring about awareness of priestly vocations; and*

***WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat developed the annual Altar Server of the Year Award into what it is today, with a large scale luncheon at the Buffalo Convention Center immediately following the Mass with our Bishop at the Cathedral; and***

***WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat began his pastorate at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville on February 3, 2014, which has approximately five thousand seven hundred families, totaling about seventeen thousand people in membership and eighty-five ministries; and***

***WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat currently serves on the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's High School; is the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College; and is a member of the DiGamma Honor Society of Canisius College and the Jesuit Honor Society, Alpha Sigma Nu; and***

***WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat continues to focus on youth, having led overnight retreats for more than three hundred of St. Gregory's parish teenagers; by leading a group to participate in the annual youth conference held at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio; and taking another group to attend World Youth Day 2016 with Pope Francis; and***

***WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat has received: the Joseph Allen Jr. Award for Outstanding Service to Youth from the Town of Tonawanda in 1999; the Serra Club's Blessed Junipero Serra Award in 2002; the Am-Pol Eagle Citizen of the Year in 2002; and the Pro Vita Award in 2013 from the Diocese of Buffalo for his efforts in promoting the sanctity of human life; and***

***WHEREAS, Father Leon J. Biernat has received honors from the Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies in 1998, and by the General Pulaski Association of the Niagara Frontier for his contributions to Polonia in 2002; and***

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT***

***RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize and acknowledge***

***Father Leon J. Biernat***

***as the Erie County Legislature Citizen of the Month, June 2015, for his many contributions to the community and leadership in many capacities.***

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**Edward A. Rath, III**  
***Erie County Legislator, 6<sup>th</sup> District***

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**Karen M. McCarthy**  
***Clerk- Erie County Legislature***