



# PROCLAMATION

PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

- WHEREAS, on June 17, 2018, the Diocese of St. Petersburg will celebrate its 50th anniversary; *and*
- WHEREAS, in 1968, when the Diocese of St. Petersburg was formed by papal decree, the region served 200,000 Catholics in 11 counties with 62 parishes and 10 missions; *and*
- WHEREAS, today the Diocese of St. Petersburg serves more than 470,000 Catholics in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Hernando and Citrus Counties and has grown to 74 parishes with 7 missions throughout the five counties including 32 parishes and missions that are located in Pinellas County; *and*
- WHEREAS, more than 12,000 children and young adults are growing mind, body and spirit in the Diocese of St. Petersburg's 48 schools, which include, early learning, special needs, elementary, middle and high school, as well as 3 campus ministry programs; *and*
- WHEREAS, the Diocese of St. Petersburg represents many cultural and ethnic groups with believers of all ages, income levels and education, who are all united in the Universal Catholic Church. Mass is celebrated in 11 languages and the Diocese through its many ministries supports local charities and groups serving the less fortunate in our community; *and*
- WHEREAS, the Diocese of St. Petersburg contributes to the moral foundation of Pinellas County as well as communities throughout Tampa Bay through its harmonization with leaders and believers of all faith denominations, in serving the people of Pinellas in joyous times as well as ministering to each other in times of tragedy and sorrow; *and*
- WHEREAS, five bishops: Most Reverend Charles B. McLaughlin, Most Reverend W. Thomas Larkin, Most Reverend John C. Favalora, Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch and Most Reverend Gregory Parkes have guided the Diocese during its 50-year history, each leaving his mark in the diocese. Under its current leadership, the diocese has seen a renewed commitment to reach out to those on the peripheries of society and among the most vulnerable; *and*
- WHEREAS, be it proclaimed that June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 will be known in Pinellas County, Florida as Diocese of St. Petersburg Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners that June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 be recognized as

### DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused the seal of Pinellas County, Florida, to be affixed hereto on this 17<sup>TH</sup> day of June, 2018.

*Kenneth T. Welch*

KENNETH T. WELCH, Chairman

*Karen Williams Seel*

KAREN WILLIAMS SEEL, Vice Chairman

*Dave Eggers*

DAVE EGGERS, Commissioner

*Pat Gerard*

PAT GERARD, Commissioner

*Charlie Justice*

CHARLIE JUSTICE, Commissioner

*Janet C. Long*

JANET C. LONG, Commissioner

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JOHN MORRONI, Commissioner

