

=====
LC03272
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2004

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CONGRATULATING REV. ROBERT J. MCMANUS, D.D., S.T.D. ON BEING NAMED
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER**

Introduced By: Senators Goodwin, Paiva-Weed, McCaffrey, Roberts, and Alves

Date Introduced: May 06, 2004

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, March 9, 2004 marks the day the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, appointed
2 the Most Rev. Robert J. McManus as Bishop of Worcester, Massachusetts; and

3 WHEREAS, Bishop McManus is the fifth Bishop to serve in the Diocese of Worcester
4 since the retirement of The Most Rev. Daniel P. Reilly, ironically enough, Bishop Reilly is also a
5 Rhode Island native; and

6 WHEREAS, In the last five years, Bishop McManus has been the Auxiliary Bishop of
7 Providence, RI serving God's people next to his Excellency Bishop Mulvee. There will be a
8 farewell mass for Bishop McManus in early May, allowing all who have been so positively
9 impacted by his holiness, to wish him well; and

10 WHEREAS, Although bittersweet, Bishop McManus accepted, without hesitation, to be
11 the next Bishop of the Diocese of Worcester. Rhode Island is his home and will always hold a
12 warm place in his heart. He states that "with a tranquility of spirit that comes from believing that
13 'for those who love God everything works together for the good'". He answers to a higher calling,
14 one he received as a young child growing up with a strong Catholic faith and education; and

15 WHEREAS, The Most Rev. McManus graduated from Blessed Sacrament School in
16 Providence and Our Lady of Providence Seminary High School. Our Lady of Providence
17 Seminary in Warwick is where he studied for the priesthood. He continued on to The Catholic
18 University of America in Washington, D.C. earning a Bachelors and Master of Arts degree and
19 the Toronto School of Theology earning a Master of Divinity degree. In addition, he earned

1 licentiate and doctoral degrees in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in
2 Rome; and

3 WHEREAS, Before Bishop McManus' ordination to the priesthood, he performed a
4 year's deaconal service at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in East Greenwich. He was ordained on
5 May 27, 1978 by Bishop Kenneth A. Angell. After his ordination, he served as temporary
6 assistant chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital (1978), Associate Pastor at St. Matthew's Parish in
7 Cranston (1978-1981) as Associate Pastor at St. Anthony's Parish in Providence (1981-1982).
8 While he continued in residence at St. Anthony, he served as the Catholic Chaplain at the
9 Community College of Rhode Island from 1982 to 1984; and

10 WHEREAS, While in Rome pursuing advanced studies in theology, Bishop McManus
11 was named director of the Diocesan Office of Ministerial Formation from July 1, 1986, to July
12 1987 then returning to the diocese to take up residence at St. Luke's Parish in Barrington.
13 November 9, 1987 he became diocesan Vicar for Education, the same year he acted as Director of
14 the Office of Ministerial Formation and in-residence at St. Luke's; and

15 WHEREAS, The Most Rev. McManus was able to assume additional duties, taking the
16 position of theological consultant and editorial writer for The Providence Visitor newspaper. On
17 February 28, 1997 he was appointed a Prelate of Honor to His Holiness with the title of
18 Monsignor; and

19 WHEREAS, This influx of successes would seem far reached for most, but Bishop
20 McManus has been on a mission assuming a tremendous amount of responsibilities, however
21 great, to ultimately serve the will of God. He was named Rector of Our Lady of Providence
22 Seminary on June 26, 1998 at the same time continuing his duties as Vicar for Education and
23 Director of Ministerial Formation and assumed responsibility for weekend assistance at St.
24 Margaret's Parish in Rumford. In conjunction, he was ordained as Titular Bishop of Allegheny
25 and Auxiliary Bishop of Providence on February 22, 1999 and his duty to serve as Secretary for
26 Ministerial Formation and Rector of Our Lady of Providence Seminary continued; and

27 WHEREAS, Although the news of Bishop McManus' Holy Father's appointment brings
28 tremendous joy and admiration, Bishop Mulvee is also saddened with the news. He is quoted as
29 saying "the news brings mixed emotions". Certainly, with all his friends in our state of Rhode
30 Island and beyond, we offer Bishop McManus our warmest, prayerful congratulations. We
31 rejoice that the Holy Father has recognized his gifts and talents and entrusted the Diocese of
32 Worcester to his care. While his appointment is a blessing for Worcester, this native born Rhode
33 Islander, this dedicated son of the Diocese of Providence will truly be missed here; now, therefore
34 be it

1 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
2 hereby congratulates The Most Rev. Robert J. McManus on being named Bishop of the Diocese
3 of Worcester. With the memory of his warm smile and genuine grace we wish to take this time to
4 thank him for all he has done here in Rhode Island. As we say good-bye, "May the road rise to
5 meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the
6 rains fall soft upon your fields and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his
7 hand"; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Bishop Robert J. McManus.

=====
LC03272
=====

