

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING AND THANKING REV. RAYMOND BANIGAN MALM FOR FORTY YEARS
OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO GOD AND THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF RHODE
ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, Pichardo, Metts, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: June 03, 2015

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, On November 6th of 1976, Reverend Raymond Banigan Malm was
2 ordained to the Holy Priesthood and over the course of the next four decades, he has proven to be
3 an inspiration to all who have been blessed to know him; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Providence, Father Malm attended local parochial and diocesan
5 schools, and later entered Pope John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, to study for the
6 priesthood. Upon his ordination, he was assigned as an assistant pastor to Saint Joseph's Parish in
7 Newport. In September of 1983, he requested a transfer to Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in
8 Providence, where he had attended during his youth, and for the next twenty-five years, he served
9 St. Michael's as the administrator of the Team Ministry; and

10 WHEREAS, During his time at Saint Michael, Father Malm was instrumental in
11 organizing the Office of Black Catholics for the Diocese of Providence and was a founding
12 president of Family AIDS Center for Treatment and Support, which is now AIDS Care Ocean
13 State, and where he remains a member of the Board of Directors; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the years, Father Malm has embraced humanitarian efforts on many
15 levels. While studying Spanish in Guatemala, he became involved in Witness for Peace, a human
16 rights organization. Since his initial journey, he has returned to Guatemala several times with
17 New England delegations in an effort to better serve and understand the needs of the Guatemalan
18 people; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1966, Father Malm was trained and became a certified trainer in

1 nonviolence. Witnessing firsthand his community's need to utilize nonviolent means to resolve
2 conflict and move forward, he and the late Sister Anne Keefe, SSJ, began to explore ways of
3 teaching nonviolence to young people in the community. From this aspiration, the Institute for the
4 Study and Practice of Nonviolence began. In the following years, the Institute not only became a
5 force for peace in Rhode Island, but extended its message across the world, with Father Malm
6 traveling to Northern Ireland to teach nonviolence to both sides of that conflict. Today, he
7 continues his work as a member of the board of directors of the Institute; and

8 WHEREAS, On July 1st of 2008, Father Malm was assigned as pastor of Saint Joseph's
9 Parish in Newport, where he continued his work in nonviolence, bringing the program to the
10 parish and the Newport Public Schools, as well as conducting several training programs at Salve
11 Regina University and translating the curriculum in Spanish to enlist the Spanish speaking
12 community of the parish. In addition, in 2013, he began the Good Friday Walk for Hunger in
13 Newport, and has reached out to other churches in the area to make this an annual interfaith
14 event; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the course of his revered career, Father Malm has earned a panoply of
16 honors and awards including, the Inspiring Leaders Award from LRI, being named the 2010
17 "Living The Dream" Award recipient, received an award from Women's Resource Center, was
18 recognized as one of the "Men Who Make a Difference," was named Philanthropist of the Year
19 by AIDS Care Ocean State, and received the Sister Anne Keefe Community Service Award from
20 the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence; and

21 WHEREAS, Father Malm is a visionary, who has spent his life in devout service to God
22 and has worked for decades to make the world a better place by putting his faith into action. On
23 June 30th of 2015, he will step down as Pastor of Saint Joseph's, but will continue his work in
24 nonviolence, AIDS care, and immigration; now, therefore be it

25 RESOLVED That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations is
26 hereby pleased to honor and thank Reverend Raymond Banigan Malm for forty years of faithful
27 service to God and the people of our state. We wish him good health and many more years of
28 benevolent service to his fellow man; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
30 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Reverend Raymond Banigan Malm.

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