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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CONGRATULATING THE REVEREND DOUGLAS J. SPINA, PH.D. ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION**

Introduced By: Senators Satchell, Metts, Lombardi, and Gallo

Date Introduced: May 19, 2016

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Douglas J. Spina was born on April 27, 1949, in Providence, Rhode Island,
2 the son of the late Angelo and Gilda Spina and the brother of Sandra A. Curran, and his brother-
3 in-law, Marc. Since he was a little boy of about 4 years old, he expressed a desire to serve God;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, He attended Providence public schools, until entering Our Lady of
6 Providence Preparatory Seminary in Warwick, where he received his high school diploma and
7 admittance into the National Honor Society in 1967, and in 1971, attained his Bachelor's degree
8 in Liberal Arts from Our Lady of Providence Seminary College; and

9 WHEREAS, Continuing his education, he received his Bachelor's degree in Religious
10 Studies from the University of Louvain, Belgium, in 1973, his Master's degree in Religious
11 Studies in 1974, and a Master's in Moral & Religious Sciences in 1975; and

12 WHEREAS, On May 1, 1974, Father Doug was ordained a deacon at the Church of St.
13 Anthony in Louvain by Bishop Stephen A. Leven. He returned to Rhode Island and served as
14 deacon assistant at St. James Church in Manville; and

15 WHEREAS, On July 17, 1976, Reverend Douglas Spina was ordained a priest in St.
16 James Church by Bishop Louis E. Gelineau. He then returned to the University of Louvain and
17 was awarded his Ph.D. in Religious Studies on June 24, 1979; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the ensuing years, Father Doug ministered in a number of parishes as
19 an assistant priest including St. Augustine's Church in Providence, St. Clement's Church in

1 Warwick, St. Mary's Church in Newport, the Cathedral of S.S. Peter & Paul in Providence, St.
2 Mary's Church in Bristol, and St. Joan of Arc Church in Cumberland. He was also assigned
3 Pastor at a number of churches in Rhode Island including St. Anthony's Church in Woonsocket,
4 Our Lady of Grace Church in Johnston, St. Martha's Church in East Providence, and St. Kevin's
5 Church in Warwick; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition, through the years, Father Doug has served in a variety of
7 specialized ministries including serving as CYO Regional Director, an instructor of Italian
8 grammar, literature and advanced writing skills, at the Ursuline Convent School, Tildonc,
9 Belgium, instructor of Religion at Our Lady of Providence Preparatory Seminary in Providence,
10 as Chaplain at Roger Williams University, as an Associate Professor/Chaplain at Salve Regina
11 University, as a part-time professor/chaplain at Bryant University, as chaplain to the Knights of
12 Columbus, St. Lawrence Council, North Providence, as assistant chaplain Mary Doran Council,
13 West Warwick, and as chaplain to the Johnston Police/Fire Departments; and

14 WHEREAS, Father Doug is also the author of myriad articles written in the areas of
15 Philosophy, Theology and American Literature, and has been published in a variety of academic
16 journals. He is a published poet and a writer of short stories, and is a lyricist/song writer having
17 written the lyrics to "Lady of the Light" and his hymn, "Maria", which was recently included in a
18 CD; and

19 WHEREAS, On July 1, 2012, Reverend Douglas J. Spina, Ph.D., was appointed Pastor of
20 St. Mary's Church in West Warwick, and was formally installed as Pastor by the Most Reverend
21 Robert C. Evans, DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Providence, on September 30, 2012; and

22 WHEREAS, Father Doug has spent most of his life in devout service to God. Through
23 that unification, he has served and blessed the faithful, enriched the spiritual lives of many Rhode
24 Islanders, and earned our total respect and admiration for his devotion. His greatest love is
25 serving the Lord as a parish priest; now, therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations is
27 hereby pleased to honor and congratulate Reverend Douglas J. Spina, Ph.D., on the joyous
28 occasion of the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination. May he "grow and mature in his desire to
29 love God and His People," and have good health and many more years of benevolent service to
30 his fellow man; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
32 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Reverend Douglas J. Spina, Ph.D.

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