

**No. R-445. House concurrent resolution in memory of the Rev. Michael A. DeMasi.**

(H.C.R.327)

Offered by: Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Corcoran of Bennington, Donahue of Northfield, Komline of Dorset, Krawczyk of Bennington, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington and Wilson of Manchester

Offered by: Senators Hartwell and Sears

Whereas, Rev. Michael DeMasi devotedly ministered for many decades to his parishioners, be they in Rutland, the Northeast Kingdom, or Bennington, with a special mission that although spiritually based, extended to many other aspects of their lives, and

Whereas, he was born in Northfield, earned an undergraduate degree at St. Michael's College in Winooski, and then desiring to dedicate his life to the service of his church, entered Grand Seminary in Montreal where he completed his course work for ordination as a Roman Catholic priest, and

Whereas, on finishing his theological classes, the Rev. Michael DeMasi was initially posted to St. Peters Church in Rutland, and he subsequently assumed his first pastoral assignment at St. Theresa's Church in Gilman, which also included a mission assignment in the nearby town of Lunenburg, and

Whereas, his pastoral role continued in the village of Island Pond where he exercised his duties as a cleric in St. James Parish, and

Whereas, in 1965, the Rev. Michael DeMasi journeyed across the state of Vermont to lead the parishioners at St. John the Baptist Church in North

Bennington, and for the next 28 years, he served as the much-esteemed priest for this congregation, and

Whereas, Rev. Michael DeMasi's activities were not limited to his own Roman Catholic faith as he was involved in many charitable and community service projects encompassing other congregations and religious persuasions, and

Whereas, the breadth of his community involvement was recognized when the NorShaft Lions Club honored him with that organization's Citizen of the Year Award, citing Rev. Michael DeMasi's concern not only for the spiritual, but also the "economic, social and medical well-being" of the thousands of persons with whom he came in contact, and

Whereas, even after his official retirement in 1993, Rev. Michael DeMasi remained engaged in the ecclesiastical and secular realms, accepting church administration assignments at St. Jerome's Church in East Dorset and Holy Trinity parish in Danby; visiting the sick at local hospitals; saying weekly Mass at the Vermont Veterans Home; and distributing the Eucharist to the homebound, and

Whereas, Rev. Michael DeMasi will perhaps be most fondly remembered for his tireless dedication to picking apples at local orchards and distributing this hand-picked fruit of the earth to the poor, and

Whereas, this noble and beloved man died in May 2009 at the age of 91, and on September 13, 2009, St. John the Baptist Church dedicated its social hall in his loving memory, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its condolences to the family of the Rev. Michael DeMasi of North Bennington, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of his family.