

RESOLUTION TO RENAME EAST LANSING COUNCIL #7816 IN HONOR OF THE REV. MONSIGNOR JEROME MacEACHIN

WHEREAS, Fr. Jerome MacEachin was appointed to St. Thomas Aquinas in May 1943 after a fatal heart felled the Rev. Cecil Winters. Fr. Mac, as he was fondly known, saw the need to expand the parish. In 1948 property was purchased on Alton Road. A school was opened in September 1949 with 95 students in six grades. Fr. Mac oversaw the building of a convent, school additions including a gym that served as the temporary church, the present church and the rectory; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Mac's effort at St Thomas Aquinas and beyond can be described as both prayerful and tireless. He continued to serve as Diocesan Superintendent of Parochial Schools through July 1954 when he assumed the role as chair of the Elementary Division of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA). While diocesan school superintendent, Fr. Mac led the development of the diocesan school curriculum, created a common report card for grading, and spent hundreds of hours traveling thousands of miles throughout the country promoting and helping Catholic dioceses and parishes create Home School Councils; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Mac served as a chaplain of the Newman Center at Michigan State College and as Instructor in Religion teaching thousands of students in hundreds of accredited classes in Theology, Liturgy, Philosophy and History; averaging nearly 400 students annually. There are some fond memories of Michigan State students being told by Fr. Mac that he had enrolled them in his class, while other students recall being told by their parents that Fr. Mac had signed them up. He also served as the chaplain for Coach Duffy Daugherty and his Spartan football teams. It was during that time on Aug. 8, 1954, that Pope Pius XII elevated Fr. Mac to the Papal Household as a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor; and

WHEREAS, With the blessings of Bishop Albers, Fr. Mac and his assistant, Fr. Robert Kavanaugh, traveled thousands of miles throughout Michigan with student and alumni leaders meeting parents, alumni, and student groups to raise the funds for what would become St. John Church and Catholic Student Center. The opening and dedication of the church and Catholic student center took place on Jan. 12, 1958, with Fr. Kavanaugh serving as its pastor; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Mac was able to focus on an answer to another prayer, one that was his favorite the building of St Thomas Aquinas Church on his other campus -- Alton Road. Fr. Mac continued

his untiring efforts with the planning, fundraising, and construction our current church its attached rectory (now parish offices). Ground was broken in 1966 and the church was completed in 1968; and

WHEREAS, previous efforts to name the council after Fr. Mac were either voted down or rejected by Supreme (because you cannot name a council after a living person), this resolution seeks to carry out the wishes of a majority of its charter members, including its first Grand Knight, Brother John Hensel; and

WHEREAS, this resolution proposes that both East Lansing and #7816 remain part of the council's name, and thus the council would become known as Rev. Monsignor Jerome V. MacEachin East Lansing Council #7816.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be published to all council members; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that at the next business meeting, on Tuesday July 12 [July 10], 2018, a vote be taken by members of Knights of Columbus East Lansing Council #7816 to approve the renaming of its council to include the name of the Rev. Monsignor Jerome V. MacEachin; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to the State Deputy for his consideration; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, upon approval by the State Deputy, that this resolution be submitted for adoption by the Supreme Council.

PRESENTED IN THE BISHOP BARAGA ROOM (COUNCIL CHAMBERS) THIS 12TH DAY OF JUNE 2018 IN EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN.