

# A DAY IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER THOMAS O'DWYER

**AUGUST 29, 2018**

- WHEREAS:** "FATHER TOM," AS HE IS AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN WITHIN THE HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY AND TO HIS PARISHIONERS, WAS BORN THOMAS O'DWYER IN BALLINAMEEN, BOYLE COUNTY, ROSCOMON, IRELAND ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1945 AND IS PREPARING TO CELEBRATE HIS 73<sup>RD</sup> BIRTHDAY, AND
- WHEREAS:** FATHER TOM HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO GOD SERVING IN THE PRIESTHOOD FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS. HE WAS INSPIRED TO BECOME A PRIEST BY THE EXAMPLE OF A PASTOR FROM HIS CHILDHOOD, AND WAS ORDAINED IN 1970 AT THE CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION IN IRELAND; AND
- WHEREAS:** FATHER TOM RECEIVED HIS BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE FROM ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE IN IRELAND AND HIS MASTER'S DEGREE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FROM BARRY UNIVERSITY; AND
- WHEREAS:** HE SERVED AS AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR IN PARISHES THROUGHOUT SOUTH FLORIDA INCLUDING THE CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER IN CORAL GABLES AND GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH. FATHER TOM WAS THE DEAN OF MEN, THE RECTOR AND PRESIDENT OF ST. JOHN VIANNEY COLLEGE SEMINARY; AND
- WHEREAS:** FATHER TOM BECAME THE PASTOR AT LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HOLLYWOOD IN 1993; AND HAS PRESIDED OVER THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL FOR 25 YEARS; HE IS KNOWN FOR HIS CALM AND COMFORTING PRESENCE AND HIS COMPASSIONATE CARE OF THOSE STRUGGLING WITH POVERTY AND ADDICTIONS.
- WHEREAS:** AT LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC CHURCH, FATHER TOM OVERSAW THE COMPLETE RENOVATION OF THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CHAPEL OF ROSES, COLONNADE AND PAVILION; IN 2000, HE STARTED THE ANNUAL LITTLE FLOWER CARNIVAL WHICH HAS GROWN INTO A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION THAT DRAWS THOUSANDS TO THE CHURCH EACH YEAR; AND
- WHEREAS:** FATHER TOM IS A SELFLESS LEADER WHO SERVED AS THE SOUTH BROWARD DEAN OF THE ARCHDIOCESE UNTIL 2017; PARTICIPATED IN BROWARD'S ORGANIZED LEADERS DOING JUSTICE; AND HAS BEEN A FAMILIAR SIGHT AT COMMUNITY EVENTS INCLUDING THE ANNUAL HOLLYWOOD ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL SERVING AS GRAND MARSHALL IN 2011; AND
- WHEREAS:** FATHER TOM'S PHILOSOPHY IS THAT THE CHURCH IS FAR MORE THAN BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS. HE WANTS LITTLE FLOWER NOT TO BE A "PLACE WHERE," BUT A "PEOPLE WHO" MAINTAIN PROUD TRADITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY. HIS VISION FOR THE PARISH IS ONE IN WHICH JUSTICE PREVAILS THOROUGH COLLABORATION AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES ARE CELEBRATED.
- WHEREAS:** FATHER TOM IS AN INSPIRATION TO HIS CONGREGATION AND THE COMMUNITY-AT-LARGE; AND
- WHEREAS:** THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD WISHES TO RECOGNIZE FATHER TOM FOR HIS STEADFAST DEVOTION TO HIS FAITH AND TO HIS CONGREGATION AND THE MANY POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS HE HAS MADE TO THE COMMUNITY; NOW
- THEREFORE:** JOSH LEVY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA, AND THE HOLLYWOOD CITY COMMISSION, HEREBY PROCLAIM AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2018, AS:

## **FATHER THOMAS O'DWYER DAY**

SIGNED THIS 29<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF  
AUGUST 2018, AT  
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

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MAYOR JOSH LEVY  
VICE MAYOR DEBRA CASE  
COMMISSIONER TRACI L. CALLARI  
COMMISSIONER PETER D. HERNANDEZ  
COMMISSIONER RICHARD S. BLATTNER  
COMMISSIONER KEVIN D. BIEDERMAN  
COMMISSIONER LINDA SHERWOOD