



**City of Chicago**  
**Office of the City Clerk**  
**Document Tracking Sheet**



**R2018-530**

**Meeting Date:** 5/25/2018  
**Sponsor(s):** Burke (14)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Congratulations extended to Reverend Thomas Mescall on revitalization and 90th anniversary of St. Adrian Parish  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

**WHEREAS**, St. Adrian Parish at 7000 South Washtenaw Avenue in Chicago, established by His Eminence George Cardinal Mundelein, will commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of its founding on June 3, 2018 with Mass conducted by His Eminence Blase Cardinal Cupich; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago has been informed of this historic anniversary by Alderman Edward M. Burke; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 8, 1928, Father Leo McNamara, Assistant Pastor to Father William Lynch at St. Bride's Parish in Chicago received a summons to appear in the Chancery Office; and

**WHEREAS**, Father William Lynch informed Father Leo McNamara that he was to become Pastor of the new St. Adrian Church, honoring the patron saint of soldiers; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 28, 1928, the entire St. Bride's Parish hosted a farewell reception for Father Leo McNamara as he prepared to assume his duties; and

**WHEREAS**, with their blessings and prayers, the church and its congregations presented Father Leo McNamara with a purse of \$2,100 to help him build the new Parish of St. Adrian; and

**WHEREAS**, the church property, located in the vicinity of 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Fairfield Avenue, was a vacant weed lot awaiting ground breaking when Father Leo McNamara first visited the site; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Leo McNamara arranged for temporary living quarters at 6708 South Claremont Avenue, a location destined to become the Church Rectory; and

**WHEREAS**, Father Leo McNamara, assisted by two altar boys, "Babe" Gardener and "Spike" Wetterahn, conducted the first Mass inside the corridor of the McKay Public School; and

**WHEREAS**, Several Masses were held at McKay School as Father Leo McNamara and the Parish organizations raised funds for the construction of the church and the school; and

**WHEREAS**, the parish made a down payment on April 1, 1929 applied to the \$150,000 mortgage; and

**WHEREAS**, His Eminence George Cardinal Mundelein and members of the St. Adrian Parish broke ground on April 13, 1929 at the southwest corner of 70<sup>th</sup> Street and Washtenaw Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 5, 1929 a formal procession formed up at the corner of 69<sup>th</sup> Street and Western Avenue to celebrate the laying of the cornerstone for the Tudor and Gothic-designed church and school; and

**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of Father Leo McNamara the parish formed a branch of the Holy Name Society, the Altar and Rosary Society and the Young Ladies Guild; and

**WHEREAS**, after many years of serving parishioners and the Southwest Side community, St. Adrian suffered an enrollment decline proportionate to increasing numbers of church members leaving the community; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, Reverend Thomas Mescall, a former practicing attorney and judge in the municipal, district and probate courts in Albuquerque, New Mexico and former associate pastor at St. Terrence in Alsip, Illinois, became parish administrator at St. Adrian; and

**WHEREAS**, the Reverend Thomas Mescall, who had grown up across the street from St. Leo's rectory on the South Side, was appointed to the pastorate in 2012; and

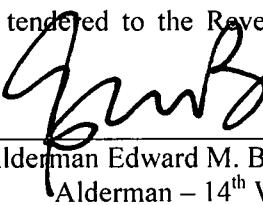
**WHEREAS**, the Reverend Thomas Mescall oversaw a successful revitalization of the church, the parish buildings and by increasing membership and participation in religious education for young people and parish functions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Escuela de la Cruz (School of the Cross), a lay ministry for Spanish-speaking Catholics was instrumental in the impressive re-birth and re-vitalization of historic St. Adrian Parish; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Adrian Parish adopted St. Josephine Margaret Bakhita, whom Pope John Paul II canonized in 2000, as an "unofficial" patron saint now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this twenty-third day of May, 2018 do hereby congratulate the Reverend Thomas Mescall and the Parish of St. Adrian on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to the Reverend Thomas Mescall.



Alderman Edward M. Burke  
Alderman – 14<sup>th</sup> Ward

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