

**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
ON BEING DESIGNATED A MINOR BASILICA**

WHEREAS, St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church was founded in 1847; and was consecrated at its downtown location at 279 Atlantic Street on May 30, 1886; and

WHEREAS, St. John's was initially constructed by a congregation of mostly working class Irish immigrants, and, today, the 1,500 families registered with the church include not only descendents of the founding families but also families of Haitian, Hispanic and Asian descent; and

WHEREAS, Pope Benedict XVI has officially designated St. John's as a Minor Basilica, known as the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist; and

WHEREAS, this designation creates a unique relationship between the church and the Holy See, now serving as the place the Pope would come to when he visits the area; and

WHEREAS, St. John's is now one of only 65 minor basilicas within the 22,000 Catholic churches and missions in the United States and is the second minor basilica in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Monsignor DiGiovanni worked for over a year seeking basilica status; and

WHEREAS, Bishop William Lori stated that St. John's was selected for several reasons, one being that it "played a pivotal role in the development of other churches in the area;" and

WHEREAS, the Basilica will be formally inaugurated by Bishop William E. Lori on February 22, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 28th Stamford Board of Representatives congratulates Monsignor DiGiovanni and his staff at Saint John the Evangelist Church on being designated a Minor Basilica.

*Approved: By the 28th Board of Representatives this
1st day of February, 2010*

Randall M. Skigen, President

Annie M. Summerville, Clerk