TWENTIETH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS

10th Reg. Session, 2026 Y.C. Res. No. 20-10

A YOUTH CONGRESS RESOLUTION

Honoring Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu for forty years of faithful and dedicated priestly service to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

WHEREAS, the Twentieth Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress recognizes the profound value of faithful service, leadership, mentorship, and commitment to community, particularly exemplified by those who dedicate their lives to serving generations of young people and families throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu, affectionately known as "Påli Ike," was born on September 30, 1955, to Corbiniano Songao and Francisca Masga Ayuyu on the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, where he was raised in a family deeply involved in the life of the Parish of San Francisco de Borja; and

WHEREAS, from an early age, the Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu was nurtured in his Catholic faith and discerned his vocation to the priesthood while serving as an altar server for two respected spiritual leaders of the region, the late

Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho of the Northern Mariana Islands and the late Archbishop Felixberto Flores of Guam; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu graduated from Father Duenas Memorial School on Guam in 1974, attended St. Joseph's Seminary in Mountain View, California, received his bachelor's degree from Holy Apostles College in Cromwell, Connecticut, in 1982, and completed his graduate theological studies at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California, in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa on August 30, 1986, becoming the first native-born resident of the island of Rota to be ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic Church, as well as the first priest ordained for the newly established Diocese of Chalan Kanoa; and

WHEREAS, throughout four decades of priestly ministry, Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu has faithfully served the people of the Northern Mariana Islands through the celebration of Mass and the sacraments, baptisms, weddings, funerals, confessions, blessings, pastoral care, and spiritual guidance for individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu's ministry has extended beyond the walls of the Church, reflecting the important place that spiritual leaders hold within the close-knit communities of the Northern Mariana Islands, where priests are called upon to participate in village fiestas, family celebrations, blessings of homes, and other occasions that bring families and communities together; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu has served in numerous pastoral and diocesan capacities, including serving as a hospital chaplain, coordinator of pre-baptismal seminars, serving as the Spiritual Director of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers (Nånan Kilisyåno), and coordinating marriage preparation, demonstrating a commitment to accompanying people through significant moments of their lives and strengthening families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu has also contributed to the strengthening of families through his involvement with the local chapter of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, serving as an advocate and member of its Ecclesial Team and helping couples strengthen their relationships with one another and with God; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu has been an important part of the continuing history of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, having served the local Church from its earliest years and remaining engaged in diocesan life and ministry across generations; and

WHEREAS, his priestly ministry has placed him in the lives of countless residents of the Commonwealth, from welcoming children into the faith and supporting young families to accompanying the sick, elderly, and homebound, celebrating marriages, honoring the deceased, and offering spiritual guidance during times of joy, hardship, and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, Father Ayuyu's service reflects the deep connection between faith, family, community, and cultural life in the Northern Mariana Islands, where

generations of Chamorro and Carolinian families have relied upon spiritual leaders not only for religious ministry but also for guidance, fellowship, and community support; and

WHEREAS, the Twentieth CNMI Youth Congress recognizes that forty years of priestly service represents a remarkable commitment spanning multiple generations of the Commonwealth, including parents, grandparents, and young people who have encountered Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu through his ministry, guidance, education, and service; and

WHEREAS, for the youth of the Commonwealth, Father Ayuyu's four decades of service provide an example of perseverance, humility, compassion, faith, leadership, and dedication to others, demonstrating the lasting impact that one individual can have through a life devoted to service; and

WHEREAS, this body believes that honoring Father Ayuyu is not only an acknowledgment of his accomplishments as a priest, but also an expression of gratitude for the many years he has devoted to the spiritual and communal well-being of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Twentieth Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress, that the Youth Congress hereby honors and commends Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu for forty (40) years of faithful, dedicated, and distinguished service to the Catholic faithful, families, youth, and communities of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sponsor of this Resolution or the designee of the Speaker of the Youth Congress shall present a certified original copy of this Youth Congress Resolution to Reverend Father Isaac Masga Ayuyu; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the Youth Congress shall certify, and the Youth Congress Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House of Representatives (24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature); Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors, President of the Senate (24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature); the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and the Honorable Kimberlyn King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives (119th United States Congress).

Date: 10/24/2026 Introduced by: _____
Senator Christopher JN. Dela Cruz