

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Most Reverend James F. Checchio on becoming the Fifteenth Archbishop of New Orleans

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Most Reverend James F. Checchio on becoming the Fifteenth Archbishop
3 of New Orleans.

4 WHEREAS, Archbishop Checchio was born on April 21, 1966, in Camden, New
5 Jersey, and is one of four children born to James and Helen Checchio; he was raised in
6 Collingswood, where he attended St. John School, and he attended Pope Paul VI High
7 School in Haddon Township; and

8 WHEREAS, Archbishop Checchio earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy
9 from the University of Scranton and studied at North American College in Rome; he holds
10 a master of business administration degree from LaSalle University and a doctorate of canon
11 law and bachelor of sacred theology degree from the University of Saint Thomas Aquinas
12 in Rome; and

13 WHEREAS, Archbishop Checchio was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Camden
14 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on June 20, 1992; he held various roles
15 within the diocese, including secretary to Bishop James T. McHugh, vice chancellor, director
16 of communications, moderator of the curia, and episcopal vicar for administration of the
17 diocese; he also served in the tribunal and as a member of the College of Consultors,
18 Presbyteral Council, Investment Committee, and Diocesan Finance Council; and

19 WHEREAS, Archbishop Checchio served as parochial vicar at St. Agnes Parish and
20 assisted at St. Jude Parish, both in Blackwood County, New Jersey; he also served as a

1 summer parochial vicar at St. Peter Parish in Merchantville and St. Peter Celestine Parish
2 in Cherry Hill; and

3 WHEREAS, Archbishop Checchio was appointed a Chaplain to His Holiness by
4 Pope John Paul II and granted the title of monsignor in 2000; he served as rector of the
5 Pontifical North American College in Rome from January 2006 to January 2016, during
6 which the college enjoyed its highest enrollment of American seminarians since the 1960s;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Archbishop Checchio was appointed a Prelate of Honor, a papal honor
9 bestowed upon diocesan priests, by Pope Benedict XVI in 2011; and

10 WHEREAS, Archbishop Checchio was named the Bishop of the Diocese of
11 Metuchen by Pope Francis on March 8, 2016, and was ordained and installed as the Fifth
12 Bishop of Metuchen on May 3, 2016; and

13 WHEREAS, Archbishop Checchio was appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of New
14 Orleans by Pope Leo XIV on September 24, 2025, and began his ministry with a mass of
15 welcome at St. Louis Cathedral on November 18, 2025; and

16 WHEREAS, Archbishop Checchio formally became the Fifteenth Archbishop of
17 New Orleans on February 11, 2026, after Pope Leo XIV accepted the resignation of Most
18 Reverend Gregory M. Aymond; and

19 WHEREAS, outside of his role with the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Archbishop
20 Checchio serves the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as conference treasurer,
21 chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance, vice chairman of the Committee on
22 Priorities and Plans, and member of the Executive Committee and Member Committee; and

23 WHEREAS, Archbishop Checchio is a member of the Papal Foundation board of
24 trustees, an appointed member of the board of trustees for the Basilica of the National Shrine
25 of the Immaculate Conception, a member of the Seton Hall University board of regents; a
26 member of the Seton Hall University board of overseers for Immaculate Conception
27 Seminary, a member of the board of directors for the National Catholic Bioethics Center, and
28 a member of the board of visitors for the Catholic University of America Busch School of
29 Business; and

1 WHEREAS, Archbishop James F. Checchio merits recognition for his service to the
2 Archdiocese of New Orleans.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
4 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Most Reverend James F. Checchio on
5 becoming the Fifteenth Archbishop of New Orleans.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 106 Original

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Freeman

Commends the Most Rev. James F. Checchio for becoming the 15th Archbishop of New Orleans.