

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Archbishop Checchio served as parochial vicar at St. Agnes Parish and assisted at St. Jude Parish, both in Blackwood County, New Jersey; he also served as a summer parochial vicar at St. Peter Parish in Merchantville and St. Peter Celestine Parish in Cherry Hill; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES