EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BISHOP TIMLIN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN PRIESTHOOD

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OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 50th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Bishop James C. Timlin of the Catholic Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania, which includes much of my Congressional District. Bishop Timlin is an institution in Northeastern Pennsylvania, known not only for his spiritual guidance but also for his leadership in a broad range of social issues.

BISHOP TIMLIN, the eighth bishop of Scranton and the first native-born son of the diocese to be named bishop, celebrated his 50th anniversary on July 16. On September 21, he will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his elevation to the rank of bishop.

He was born in 1927 in the High Works section of Scranton to the late James C. and Helen Norton Timlin. He attended St. John the Evangelist and Holy Rosary schools in Scranton and graduated from Holy Rosary High School and St. Charles College in Catonsville, Md.

Those who knew him in childhood sensed he was on the path to the priesthood, as his face bore a radiant expression while he served Mass and he had already joined the Future Priest Club by the time he entered eighth grade at Holy Rosary. He attended St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore before completing his studies for the priesthood at the North American College.

Bishop Timlin was ordained in 1951 in Rome by the Most Rev. Martin J. O’Connor, D.D., then-rector of North American College, who ordained him a year early because of the speed with which he managed his studies. He continued studies in Theology there before returning to the diocese where in 1952 he was appointed assistant pastor at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston.

On June 12, 1953, he became assistant pastor of St. Peter’s Cathedral Parish, Scranton, where he served until September 12, 1966, when he was named assistant chancellor of the diocese and secretary to Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, D.D., the sixth Bishop of Scranton.

Other papal honors and diocesan appointments followed as he was named Chaplain to His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, on August 3, 1967, Chancellor of the diocese on December 15, 1971, and Prelate of Honor of His Holiness on April 23, 1972.

Earlier in his ministry, Bishop Timlin served as assistant to the Dean of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and the Priests’ Education Committee, as well as librarian and secretary at St. Pius X Seminary, Dalton. In 1972, he was appointed to the Diocesan Board of Consultors, and three years later, was elected President of the Board of Directors of The Catholic Light.

He was named Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton on August 3, 1976. He was ordained in St. Peter’s Cathedral on September 21, when he also became Vicar General of the diocese. In September, 1979, he became pastor of the Church of the Nativity of Our Lord, Scranton.

Cardinal John J. O’Connor, the seventh Bishop of Scranton, appointed him chairman of the Board of Advisors for St. Pius X Seminary, and chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the Diocesan Synod. Following the Cardinal’s transfer to the Archdiocese of New York in March, 1984, Bishop Timlin was elected Diocesan Administrator by the Diocesan Board of Consultors. His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, appointed him the eighth Bishop of Scranton on April 24, 1984, and his installation followed on June 7.

Bishop Timlin has served two terms as a member of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Administrative Board and the National Advisory Council. He also served as a member of the Board of the North American