

# *City of Cincinnati*

Resolution No.

**R / 43 - 2018**

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RECOGNIZING Father Benjamin J. Urmston, S.J., Ph.D., for his lifelong contributions to the Catholic Church and 47 years of service at Xavier University, his tireless advocacy in these capacities for issues concerning peace and social justice, and his consistent encouragement to engage one another with compassion.

WHEREAS, Father Benjamin J. Urmston first arrived at Xavier University as an undergraduate in 1943, and left Xavier that same year to serve in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Father Benjamin J. Urmston is a United States Army Veteran, having served during World War II in Europe under General Patton and then in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, Father Benjamin J. Urmston's service in the military instilled a strong sense of community and exposed him to various humanitarian concerns facing the world; and

WHEREAS, Father Benjamin J. Urmston decided to join the Jesuits while serving in the Philippines and entered the Jesuit Novitiate in 1946; and

WHEREAS, Father Benjamin J. Urmston returned as a Jesuit Priest to Xavier University in 1971, shortly thereafter becoming an instructor of Theology, focusing his teachings on international issues, human rights, and non-violent solutions to the problems of the world; and

WHEREAS, Father Benjamin J. Urmston began the Faith and Justice Forum, a weekly talk radio program on WVXU, where from 1977 to 1997 he recorded over 1000 shows and was recognized in 1997 for his excellence in programming with the Golden Microphone Award by Xavier University's WVXU.FM; and

WHEREAS, Father Benjamin J. Urmston, in recognition of the need to encourage student engagement with international human rights issues, was instrumental in creating the Peace Studies Minor at Xavier University, one of the first interdisciplinary minors available at the university; and

WHEREAS Father Benjamin J. Urmston has received numerous accolades for his dedication to Peace and Justice, including the Orchid Award for his commitment to clean air, the Dorothy Day Medal, the Manhattan College Peace Studies Medal, the Xavier University Muslim Student Association Award of Recognition, and the Rev. Maurice McCrackin Award; and

WHEREAS Father Benjamin J. Urmston was presented with the Fair and Courageous Award by the Cincinnati NAACP at the 56th annual NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner on October 21, 2011, and in accepting this award, encouraged all in attendance to listen compassionately to one another, and to challenge themselves to strive for greater heights and minimize weaknesses; now therefore,

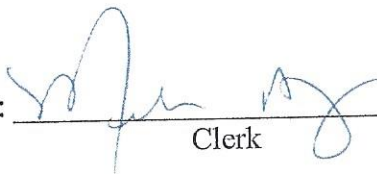
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

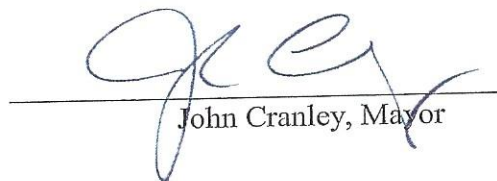
Section 1. That the Mayor and City Council recognize Father Benjamin J. Urmston, S.J., Ph.D., for his lifelong contributions to the Catholic Church and Xavier University, his conscientious work for greater peace and justice in our world, his tireless efforts as an educator and community leader to ignite a passion within our community for social justice and human rights, and his unwavering encouragement for us all to live as men and women for others.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that copies be sent to Father Benjamin J. Urmston through the office of Vice Mayor Smitherman.

Passed: June 27, 2018

Attest:

  
Clerk

  
John Cranley, Mayor

Submitted by Vice Mayor Smitherman

