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Caridad De La Luz - Executive Director - caridad@nuyorican.org

September 4, 2025

Hon. Angie Master, Vice Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
253 Broadway, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Carlina Rivera, City Councilmember, 2nd District
254 East 4th Street
New York, NY 10009

RE: Support of landmark designation for Church of Most Holy Redeemer, 173 East 3rd Street

Dear Vice Chair Master, Mayor Adams, and Councilmember Rivera,

The Nuyorican Poets Cafe writes in support of Village Preservation's campaign to designate the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, 173 East 3rd Street in Manhattan, as an individual landmark. Constructed in 1852, the building features a mix of Baroque-Romanesque and Byzantine Revival styles. Originally boasting a 250-foot-tall steeple (the tallest structure in the city at the time), it was lowered in 1902 but remains a fixture of the East Village skyline.

Beyond its architectural significance, we are particularly interested in this building's connection to the neighborhood's immigrant history. Most Holy Redeemer was established by the Redemptorist Fathers in 1844 to serve New York City's sizable German immigrant population when this section of the East Village was known as *Kleindeutschland*, or "Little Germany." At the turn of the 20th century, the neighborhood's German population was declining, and immigrants

from other countries were starting to settle in the neighborhood in large numbers. By mid-century, Spanish-speaking Catholics formed the majority of the Most Holy Redeemer congregation, and today, the church is popularly known as *Iglesia Santisimo Redentor-Natividad*.

The church has recently [halted masses](#) at the site, leaving its future in doubt. As an architecturally and culturally significant cornerstone of the East Village, the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer has served the community for over a century and half, and we urge the Commission to designate this building as an individual landmark.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caridad De La Luz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Caridad" being more prominent.

Caridad De La Luz

Executive Director

Nuyorican Poets Cafe