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August 18, 2025

Hon. Sarah Carroll, 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 Chair Carroll, Mayor Adams, and Councilmember Rivera,

The Tenement Museum 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, it 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.

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 Santísimo Redentor-Natividad*. The stories of these newcomer communities are at the heart of the Tenement Museum's storytelling work and Church of the Most Holy Redeemer is an iconic architectural touchstone for the linked histories of these important groups.

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 "Annie Pollard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Annie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Pollard".

Annie Pollard, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Favalaro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Favalaro".

David Favalaro, Senior Director of Curatorial Affairs