

August 19, 2025

Richard Panchyk
210 Lewis Avenue
Westbury, NY 11590

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

Dear Chair Carroll:

I am writing to proclaim my support for the designation of the Most Holy Redeemer Church at 173 East 3rd Street as a NYC Landmark. As the author of 12 local history books on NYC, including a title called *Manhattan Churches* (Arcadia Publishing, 2016), I have a detailed appreciation of the important role our city's historic churches. They are among the most special of our city's architectural and historical treasures.

I write this not only as a historian but also as someone of German descent. My great-great grandfather Carl Voigt arrived in Manhattan from Germany in 1866, soon to be followed by other family members, including my great-great-great uncle Walter H. Henning, who rose from being an immigrant in a crowded tenement in the neighborhood of the Most Holy Redeemer Church, to serving as Deputy Sheriff of New York City from 1895-97.

The Most Holy Redeemer Church played a key role in the history of our city's German immigrant community, being one of the earliest churches to cater to the German Catholics who were starting to come in larger numbers by the 1840s and through the 19th century. In fact, Walter Henning had decided against attending the seminary in Thuringia and come to the US seeking a better life.

Landmark status is so critical in protecting our historic buildings from alteration or destruction. The Most Holy Redeemer Church complex deserves to be recognized and protected for its role in serving the early German population of "Little Germany" before the General Slocum disaster and the move uptown of most German New York families to Yorkville.

Sincerely,



Richard Panchyk
Local Historian and Author