LES
Ecology
Center

November 24, 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. 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 District 2,

On behalf of the Lower East Side Ecology, I am writing 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, together with the bells which still ring at midday.

To me, as an immigrant from Germany arriving in 1980, the building represents 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, but the LES stayed a destination for recent immigrants, and most recently Spanish-speaking Catholics formed the majority of the Most Holy Redeemer congregation, and today, the church is popularly known as Iglesia Santisomo Rendentor-Natividad.

The church has recently halted services, 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,

Christine Datz-Romero, Executive Director

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