

1 [Sister Mary Edith Hurley Day - November 15, 2020]

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3 **Resolution celebrating Sister Mary Edith Hurley on the occasion of her 100th birthday,**
4 **and declaring November 15, 2020, as Sister Mary Edith Hurley Day in the City and**
5 **County of San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, Aileen Hurley was born on November 15, 1920, in San Francisco’s
8 Mission District to Irish immigrant parents; and

9 WHEREAS, Aileen studied at St. Peter’s Catholic School from first grade through
10 twelfth grade, and in those years, was known to perform with siblings, Joseph and Margaret,
11 at the world famous Healy School of Irish Dance; and

12 WHEREAS, After being taught for 12 years by the Sisters of Mercy who devote
13 themselves to taking care of the poor, the sick and the uneducated, Aileen joined them and
14 committed to spend her life serving as Sister Mary Edith Hurley; and

15 WHEREAS, In her 81 years as a Sister of Mercy, Sr. Mary Edith’s passion was
16 teaching elementary school children throughout California, but she was always happy to
17 return to San Francisco where she taught at St. Peter’s Catholic School, St. Gabriel Catholic
18 School, St. Stephen Catholic School, and Holy Name School for a combined 28 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Edith’s devotion by her students is such that when her family
20 wanted to schedule her birthdays, they had to work around a group of senior citizens that
21 faithfully came to gather with their “first grade teacher”; and

22 WHEREAS, When in 1960’s religious life went through profound alterations, Sr. Mary
23 Edith was always open to change and trying new things. According to her family, she
24 “embraced the world”; and

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1 WHEREAS, In the days when there would be 50 students to one teacher in a class, Sr.
2 Mary Edith was known for bravely leading field trips; her famous elevated “teaching chair” was
3 so cherished by other educators that it has been passed to three different teachers, each of
4 whom has taken inspiration from Sr. Mary Edith’s enthusiasm; and

5 WHEREAS, Upon retirement, Sr. Mary Edith travelled for some years to the Sisters of
6 Mercy communities in Australia, and discovered new inspiration for decades more
7 commitment and devotion; and

8 WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Edith returned to San Francisco from that sojourn Down Under,
9 at the age of 70 wrote a grant for Holy Name School's first Computer Lab, and continued to
10 staff the Computer program until she was 80; and

11 WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Edith has endured the COVID-19 Shelter order with grace, she
12 also has the skills to continue to email and FaceTime with her community; and

13 WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Edith’s pride in her Irish heritage is reflected in her chaplaincy for
14 both the Hibernians, and the Rebel Cork Ladies; and

15 WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Edith has experienced disappointment that pandemic isolation
16 requires the suspension of a live party for her 100 birthday; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That in recognition of her 100th birthday and lifelong devotion to
18 educating children and to the Catholic faith and Irish community, the Board of Supervisors of
19 the City and County of San Francisco does hereby proclaim November 15, 2020, to be Sister
20 Mary Edith Hurley Day.

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