

# Proclamation

Presented to  
**Sister John Norton, O.P.**

- WHEREAS,** Sister John Norton, O.P. was born in Detroit, Michigan on December 18, 1924. She entered the Adrian Dominican Congregation in 1948 and has served the Church and community in many educational capacities; and
- WHEREAS,** A graduate of Siena Heights College, Sister John earned her Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision from Barry University; and
- WHEREAS,** She began her teaching at St. Mary's elementary in 1949 and by 1957 she became principal of St. Matthew's School in Jacksonville. In 1963 she moved to Miami Beach and taught mathematics at St. Patrick's School. Sister John Norton joined the faculty of St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale in 1966; and
- WHEREAS,** At St. Thomas, Sister John taught Math at every level from Pre-Algebra to Statistics for 14 years. In 1971 she became Assistant Principal of St. Thomas Aquinas High School and continued to teach 3 classes of Math, experiencing her greatest joy – leading and encouraging young people to strive for excellence in academics and to seek ways to help and assist others; and
- WHEREAS,** Sister John took on the position of Principal full time in 1980. Due to her efforts and leadership St. Thomas Aquinas developed and expanded both academically and athletically making St. Thomas one of the top Catholic High Schools in the nation. In 1985 St. Thomas received the United States Department of Education Exemplary School Award and in June 1996, it was recognized with a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award, emphasizing their outstanding role in technology and parental involvement; and
- WHEREAS,** Sister John was a part of the spirit of the school spending much time with students and families attending almost every athletic event and promoting the STA message throughout the community; and
- WHEREAS,** In order for her students to experience and express their faith in a more dynamic, vibrant way in 1983 she established a program of required student service hours. Due to her vision tens of thousands of service hours are given to the Broward County community each year as this program has become a part of all the schools in the area; and
- WHEREAS,** In 1992 Sister John Norton received the Primum Regnum Dei Award from the Archdiocese of Miami for her devoted service to Lord and the Church and received the Silver Medallion Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews for her efforts in encouraging good human relations among all people; and
- WHEREAS,** In 1996 Sister stepped down from being principal but continued working with families at St. Thomas, working with the alumni, and raising funds as coordinator of special events; and
- WHEREAS,** For over 50 years Sister John Norton has devoted herself to spreading the good news of Catholic education, has influenced the hearts of thousands of students and won the respect and admiration of their families as well. Through her faith, commitment and service Sister John has become one of the pillars of South Florida and is widely recognized in our community for her dedication to excellence and her achievements in education.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE,** as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim, **April 12, 2016** as:

## **Sister John Norton O.P. Day**

in the city of Fort Lauderdale and do thank Sister John for her unparalleled service to the Fort Lauderdale community.

**DATED this,** the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016.



  
Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

