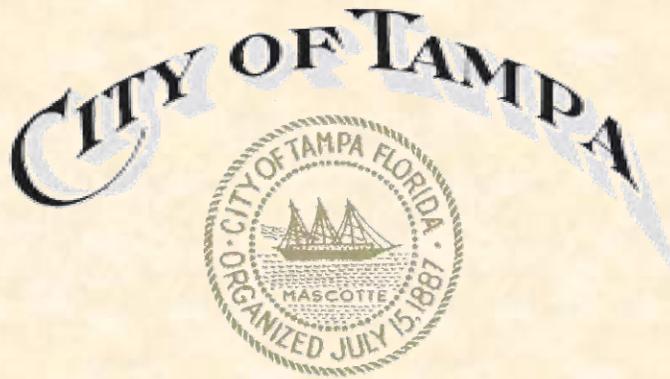


Proclamation



PAM IORIO, MAYOR

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Monsignor Laurence E. Higgins is one such person. Known by all as one of Tampa's leading citizens, Monsignor Higgins has played a significant role in the growth of our city and has been instrumental in improving the quality of life for our residents; and

WHEREAS, born in 1928 in Derry, Northern Ireland, the Monsignor was educated in various private schools throughout Ireland and was ordained a priest on June 21, 1953 at All Hallow's Seminary in Dublin; and

WHEREAS, beginning his pastoral duties with the Florida Diocese of St. Augustine in Miami in 1953, then Father Higgins was transferred to Tampa in 1958 where he served as Pastor of St. Lawrence Mission. He has since built the Mission into one of Tampa's largest Catholic parishes and one of our finest parochial schools, St. Lawrence Parish and Elementary School; has developed three other parishes in the community; served as Interim Pastor of St. Peter Claver Church and School; and served as Vicar General of the Diocese of St. Petersburg for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, his Holiness Pope John Paul II gave him the title of Monsignor Prelate of Honor and, in 1988, Protonotary Apostolic, the highest ranking of Monsignor; and

WHEREAS, Monsignor Higgins has been unrelenting in doing God's work with particular attention being given to the educational needs of our youth, various humanitarian causes, and all efforts aimed at improving our community; and

WHEREAS, serving as Chaplain for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and numerous planning and executive boards responsible for providing needed services such as housing, education, commerce, recreation, health, etc., Monsignor Higgins has been a driving force in our community for many years. Receiving numerous awards and recognitions, the Monsignor was most recently honored with the establishment of "Higgins Alcohol and Addiction Program" at the Institute for Research in Psychiatry at the University of South Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is honored to join other organizations throughout our community in honoring Monsignor Higgins on his 54th Anniversary of Ordination into the Catholic priesthood and in wishing him the best on his retirement as Pastor of St. Lawrence which will be effective on June 30, 2007.

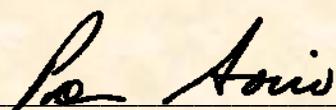
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pam Iorio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim June 21-30, 2007 as

"MONSIGNOR LAURENCE E. HIGGINS DAYS"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the role Monsignor Higgins has had in shaping the history of our city.

Dated in Tampa, this 21st day of June, 2007.





Mayor