

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Tampa Bay was greatly influenced by the early explorers and missionaries to Florida, and our unique cultural blend, spiritual heritage, and rich history are a result of these brave individuals; and

WHEREAS, Father Luis de Cancer, (1500-1549), a courageous faithful Spanish Dominican priest, was a pioneer missionary to the New World, and in 1547, he set sail on the Santa Maria de la Encino ship to peacefully share the gospel, arriving in *Bahia de Espiritu Santo* (Bay of the Holy Spirit), now known as Tampa Bay, in 1549, where he was martyred shortly thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the development of our community began with the explorers, pioneers and missionaries such as Father Luis de Cancer, and it is important to honor them for our early beginnings that have influenced our uniqueness and way of life; and

WHEREAS, the Diocese of St. Petersburg, founded in 1968, has established its annual ***Fr. Luis de Cancer Distinguished Priestly Service Award*** in the faithful Dominican missionary's name to honor his bravery and dedication, and it is awarded annually to a priest serving in the Diocese who best exemplifies selflessness and dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa joins the Most Reverend Gregory Parkes, Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Petersburg in welcoming attendees to the **2025 Eucharistic Encounter Conference** at Benchmark International Arena on Saturday, September 20, 2025, and the free event is open to the public and features Mass, Adoration, and it is a day of faith, worship, and transformation that includes inspiring guest speakers, uplifting musicians, and more; and

WHEREAS, this special 2025 Eucharistic Encounter Conference with the theme ***Reason For Our Hope***, provides an opportunity to honor Tampa Bay's unique historical roots and spiritual heritage while fostering unity and understanding among citizens, and it commemorates our city's original Bay of the Holy Spirit name.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, September 20, 2025, as

“BAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join me in reflecting upon and celebrating the rich spiritual heritage that has shaped our great community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 20th day of September 2025.



Jane Castor

Mayor