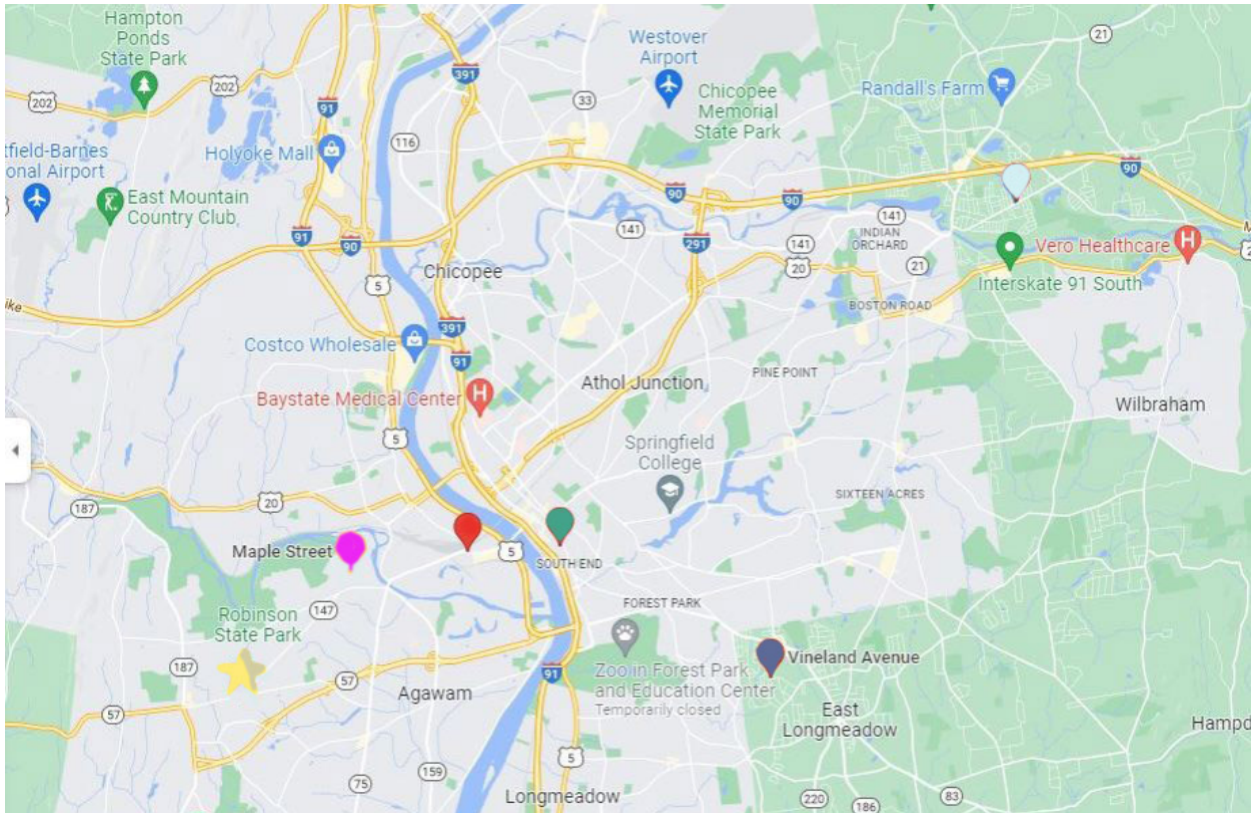


CHAPTER EIGHT: SACRED HEART CHURCH in FEEDING HILLS, MA



Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

Feeding Hills, MA



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Springfield, MA

Volume II



Saint Ann Church

West Springfield, MA

Volume II



Saint Anthony Church

Agawam, MA

Volume II



Saint Joseph Church

East Longmeadow, MA

Volume II



Our Lady of the Assumption Church

Ludlow, MA

Volume II

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Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Feeding Hills, MA

Foundation:
1926



“Through the untiring efforts of Father Linse, the Bishop approved the erection of our new Social Center in the year 1970, and this beautiful building was completed and dedicated on January 17, 1971.”

I. Historical Background [1926 – 1946]

During the infant years of Feeding Hills, the Catholic people attended churches in North Agawam, West Springfield and Springfield, with the hope that someday they would have a church of their own.



Rev. Adolph Ferrari, CSS
[1912 - +1996]

In the fall of 1926, a portable wooden Chapel, which had been used in St. Anthony's church in North Agawam, was dismantled and carried by truck to William Street in Feeding Hills. It was a mission Chapel of Mount Carmel Church and the Stigmatine fathers celebrated Mass there each Sunday.

In June of 1944, Rev. Adolph Ferrari, CSS was placed in charge of the Mission Church of Feeding Hills.

In February of 1946, the late Bishop Thomas M. O'Leary declared a Territorial Parish in Feeding Hills. The place of worship was to be at Sacred Heart Church on William Street.

II. Towards to the erection and dedication of the Church [1946 – 1959]

In February of 1946, Rev. Leonard Della Badia, CSS was assigned as first Pastor of the Sacred Heart Church. At the time of its founding, the Parish consisted of 175 families. The portable Church could only seat 125 people and was much too small for the growing community. From 1946 to 1959, the Parishioners worked and saved and prayed that they might be able to build a Church large enough for all the Catholics in Feeding Hills.

In 1948, through the untiring efforts of Father Leonard Della Badia, approximately 12 acres of land were purchased at the corner of Springfield, Mill and Poplar Streets on which the new Church, Social Center and Recreation Area now stand.



Rev. Leonard Della Badia, CSS
[1911 - +2004]



Rev. George Linse, CSS
1916 - +1994

On June, 1956, Father George Linse, CSS, was assigned as Pastor of Sacred Heart Church.

On January, 1958, Bishop Christopher J. Weldon granted the Parish permission to erect a new Church. Fr. Linse worked feverishly for a new Church, and on June 20, 1959 the new church was dedicated.

The first Mass was celebrated in the new Church on Sunday, June 21, 1959.

The growth of the parish in the first ten years was from 500 parishioners in 1946 to 1,827 in 1956.

III. Towards the Silver Jubilee [1960 – 1971]

On July, 1961 the Pavilion on Church grounds was completed.

On August 12, 1962 the electronic bells were installed in the new Church. They rang for the first time on August 19, 1962.

On January 14, 1963, Fr. Joseph Henchey, Assistant Pastor, left for his new assignment in Virginia. And on January 20 Fr. Richard Farrell was assigned as new Assistant Pastor of Sacred Heart Church.

On August, 1964, Father Richard Farrell was transferred to Virginia, and Fr. David Gallagher was assigned as Assistant Pastor.

On November 23, 1965, Fr. James Shea was assigned as Assistant Pastor of the Sacred Heart Church.

In 1966, the growth of the Parish in the last ten years was from 1,825 parishioners in 1956 to 3,308 in 1966. And in the same year there was a purchase of three acres of property on Poplar Street, adjoining the present church property.

On February, 1967, the mortgage on the new Church was paid off.

On July, 1967, there was purchased the Rectory at 1103 Springfield Street. Later on, in November, there was sold the Rectory at 1100 Springfield Street.

On June 2, 1968, Fr. James Shea celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood.

On June 16, 1968, Fr. George Linse celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood.

Through the untiring efforts of Father Linse, the Bishop approved the erection of our new Social Center in the year 1970, and this beautiful building was completed and dedicated by Bishop Christopher J. Weldon on January 17, 1971.

And on 1971 the Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills celebrated its Silver Jubilee!

IV. Towards the Future [From 1972 on]

Nowadays (2024), the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Feeding Hills is conducted by the Diocese of Springfield. It is a beautiful and fruitful parish, as we can see on its website:

<https://sacredheartfeedinghills.org/>

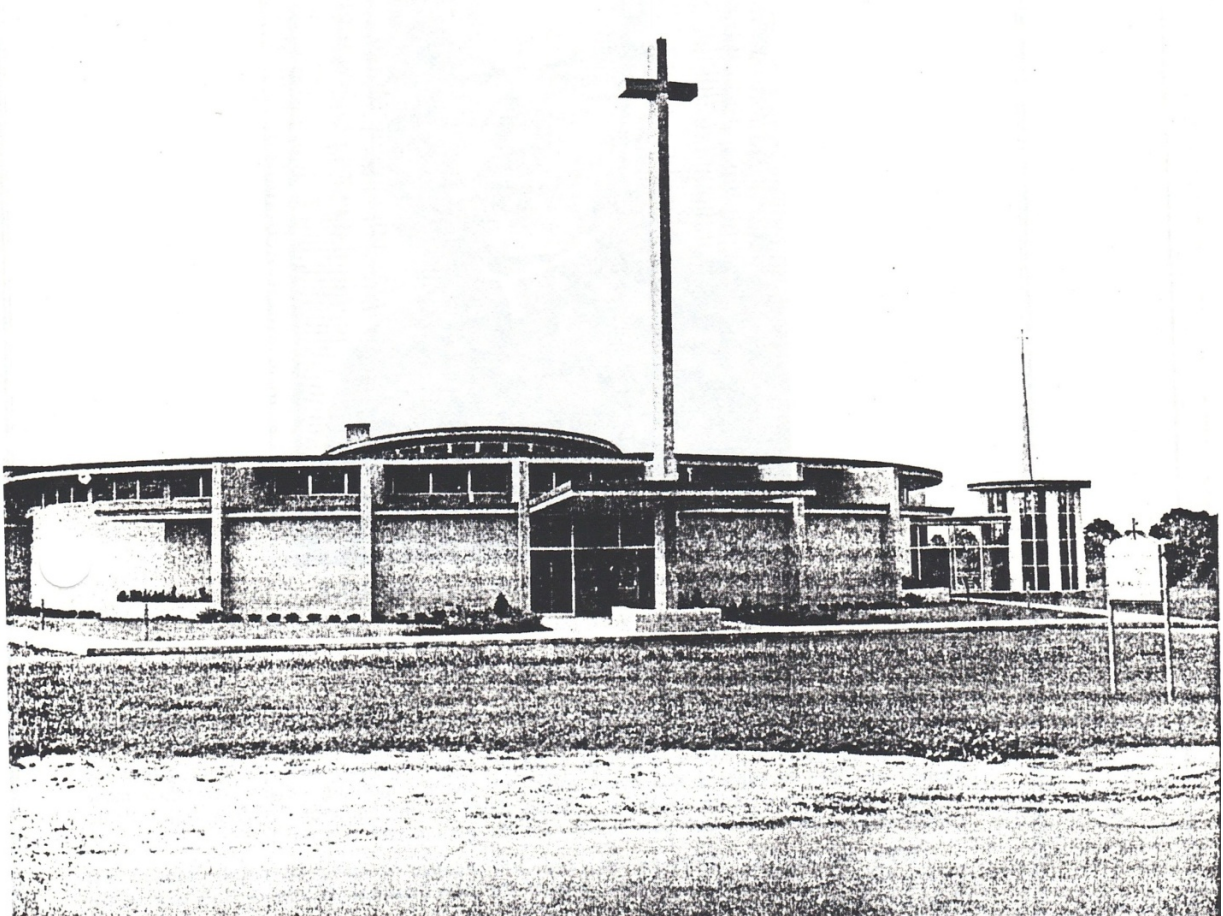


Multos Annos Ad!

Many more years to come!



DEDICATION...



SACRED HEART CHURCH

FEEDING HILLS, MASSACHUSETTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1959



REVEREND GEORGE A. LINSE, C.P.S.
Pastor

IN APPRECIATION

Thirty-three years have elapsed since several men of the Parish carried our former Sacred Heart Church from North Agawan and reassembled it in Feeding Hills. Because of the growth of our families and the advent of many new parishioners, it was not long before the chapel was filled to capacity and overflowing each Sunday morning. Plans were then made to erect a new church which would be a fitting abode for the house of God and which would comfortably accommodate our parishioners for the present and also the future.

With the support, encouragement, zeal and sacrifice of our good people, ground was broken May 16, 1958, and a year later one of the most beautiful churches in this part of the State was dedicated June 20, 1959.

It is with deep gratitude to Almighty God that we dedicate this beautiful church and it is with sincere appreciation to each one of our good parishioners for making the erection of this church possible.

Now we can truly say:

"I have loved, O Lord,
The beauty of Thy house
And the place where
Thy glory dwells."

May our beautiful and stately new church always remain an exterior sign of the inner spiritual goodness, piety and holiness of the people of Feeding Hills.

Rev. George A. Linse, C.P.S.

History of the Sacred Heart Church

In the early days of Catholic Church history in Agawam, Catholics living in Feeding Hills attended churches in North Agawam and West Springfield. In the Fall of 1926, the Sacred Heart Church, a small wooden structure, was erected on William Street in Feeding Hills. This was the former St. Anthony's Church which had been dismantled and carried by truck to its present location. The men of the parish built the foundation and cellar. At the time it was a mission chapel affiliated with St. Anthony's Church, Stigmatine Fathers from St. Anthony's and St. Ann's parishes said one Mass in the church each Sunday. In the year 1944, Rev. Adolph Ferrari, C.P.S., was placed in charge of the church, and, under his leadership, a kitchen, office and lavatories were added to the original structure.

The late Bishop Thomas M. O'Leary of Springfield raised the Sacred Heart Church from a mission chapel to that of a parish embracing all the territory and Catholics of Feeding Hills, in March of 1946. At that time there were one hundred and seventy-five families comprise the membership of the Sacred Heart Church.

In June of 1946, Rev. Leonard Della Badia, C.P.S., was sent to the newly-formed territorial parish. With much zeal and great interest, he immediately began the important work of organizing the youth and adults of the parish. The Catholic Youth Organization was formed in the parish in 1946. In November of 1946, the Rosary Altar Society was established, followed by the Holy Name Society in February, 1947, and the Sacred Heart AC in March, 1948.

In February of 1948, the Homer S. Flower estate on the corner of Springfield, Mill and Poplar streets, and consisting of 12 acres of land, was purchased by the Sacred Heart Parish as a site for its future church.

In the month of June, 1956, Rev. Leonard Della Badia, C.P.S., was transferred to the Sacred Heart Church, Timmins, Ontario, and Rev. George Linse, C.P.S., succeeded him as pastor, with Rev. Francis Keefe, C.P.S. as assistant. For the next two years, religious, social and financial activities were sponsored by the parish, and in January, 1958, His Excellency, Most Reverend Bishop Christopher J. Weldon, granted permission to erect a new church.

After months of planning and discussions, ground was broken by the Bishop in May of 1958 for the new and modernistic church. The design decided upon was a semi-circular building with many functional aspects. It has a seating capacity of 850 persons, with the farthest seat from the altar only thirteen paws distant. A wonderful feature of this design is the fact that regardless where a person may sit, his view will be unobstructed for there are no pillar or posts anywhere inside the church. There is a glass enclosed room in the church, completely sound-proof for mothers with small children. Colored glass windows around the entire expanse of the building offer ample natural lightning. For the convenience of the young and old alike, the church has only one step at the entrance. The church is landscaped with lawns and flower beds. A parking lot sufficiently large to accommodate all cars was erected to the one side of the church.

On Saturday, June 20, the new church was dedicated and the first Masses were celebrated the following day.

Description of Our Stained Glass Windows

The tall cross outside the entrance reminds all men that Christ said “If I be lifted up from the world I will draw all men to me”. The cross in stained glass over the door to the church shows that some have been drawn by the cross and are willing to try to follow Christ’s advice: “Take up your cross and follow me”. The stained glass cross is red, symbol of love and courage; and blue, symbol of faith. From God’s love and truth emanate rays of His grace, goodness, and joy (which are yellow, and rays of hope green). The windows reach like arms around all those in the church, and the rays shine to the ends. The background pieces of many colors are dark at the far ends (that’s us far away from the cross), but get brighter and lighter as they get nearer the cross. Being human our progress is uneven, which is represented by the rhythmical progression in each window of (3) sections.

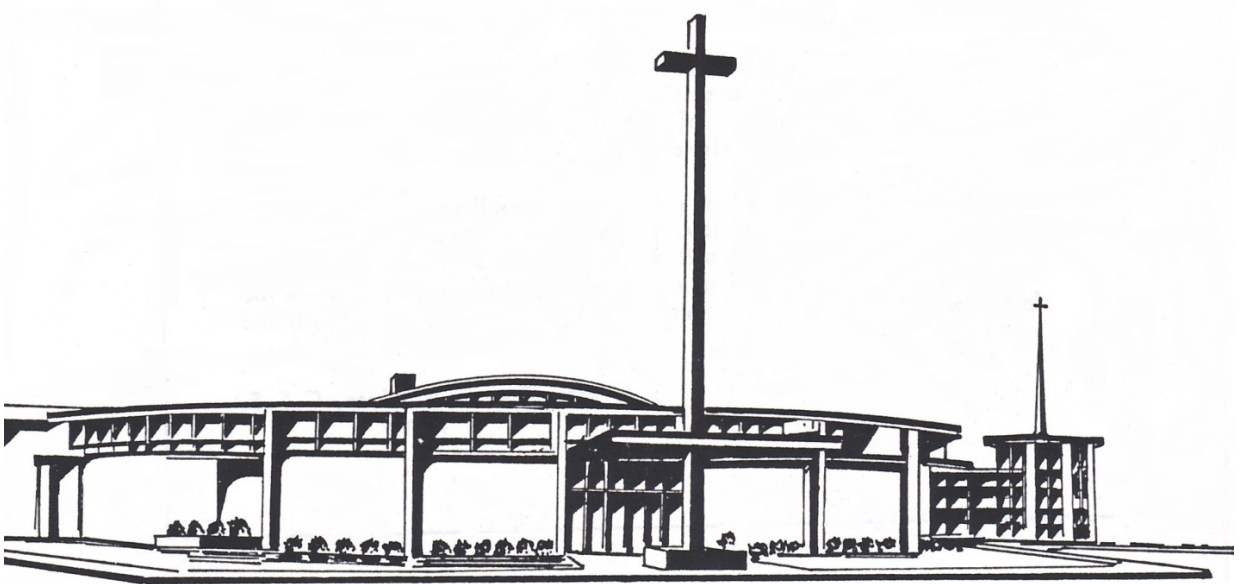
The inner semi-circle around the altar has a chalice and host in the center, for Christ has given us Himself as our reward for following Him. These windows are lighter than the others to make the altar the brightest spot in the church.

In Noah’s time, the earth was cleansed by a flood and in Baptism we are cleansed by holy water. After the flood, God put the rainbow in the sky. In the Baptistry, the windows are arranged as a rainbow. Light at the top denoting God’s grace coming to us, and dark at the bottom, the evil being put down.

Silver Jubilee

SACRED HEART CHURCH Feeding Hills, Mass.

1946 - 1971



FOREWORD

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field. This indeed is the smallest of all seeds; but when it grows up, it is larger than any herb and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and dwell in its branches.”

This is the story of our Parish. Only twenty-five years ago, the Sacred Heart Church was established with very few families but with God’s blessings and the dedicated labor of zealous priests and parishioner, our humble beginning soon bore fruit and our number have grown ten-fold.

From every section of Feeding Hills, our members flock to their Church for religious solace and worship. Our youth is given every opportunity to study our faith and learn the way of salvation through our Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Boys and girls by the hundreds are enrolled in our sport programs and adults can join in a variety of activities.

In a short period of twenty-five years, the Parish has erected a most beautiful and functional Church, a most needed Parish Center, in addition to the purchase of a Rectory and seventeen acres of land for recreation, sports and relaxation.

Truly our Parish tree has grown from a small seed to a large tree where so many find spiritual joy and happiness. May this souvenir book prove a source of information to the reader and a challenge to inspire the present and future members of Sacred Heart Church to emulate the faith and spirit of all those who made possible this amazing growth and success.

Rev. George Linse, C.S.S.
Pastor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The House of Representatives
Official
Citation

Be it hereby known to all that:
The Massachusetts House of Representatives
hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to:

..... SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

in recognition of

..... IT'S TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The entire membership extends its very best
wishes on this memorable occasion and expresses
the hope for continued good fortune.

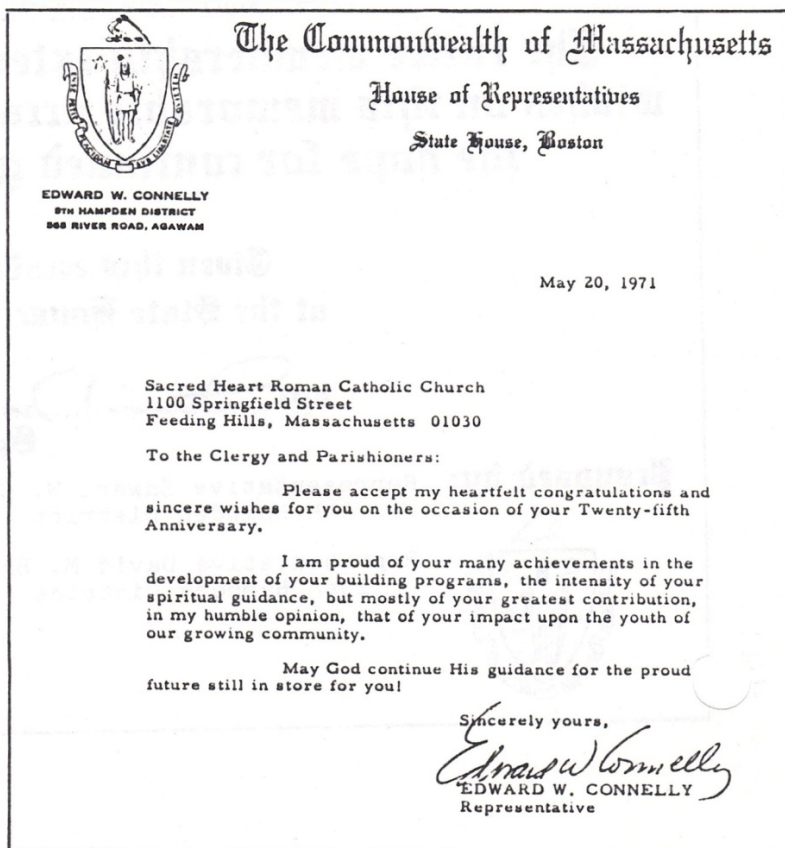
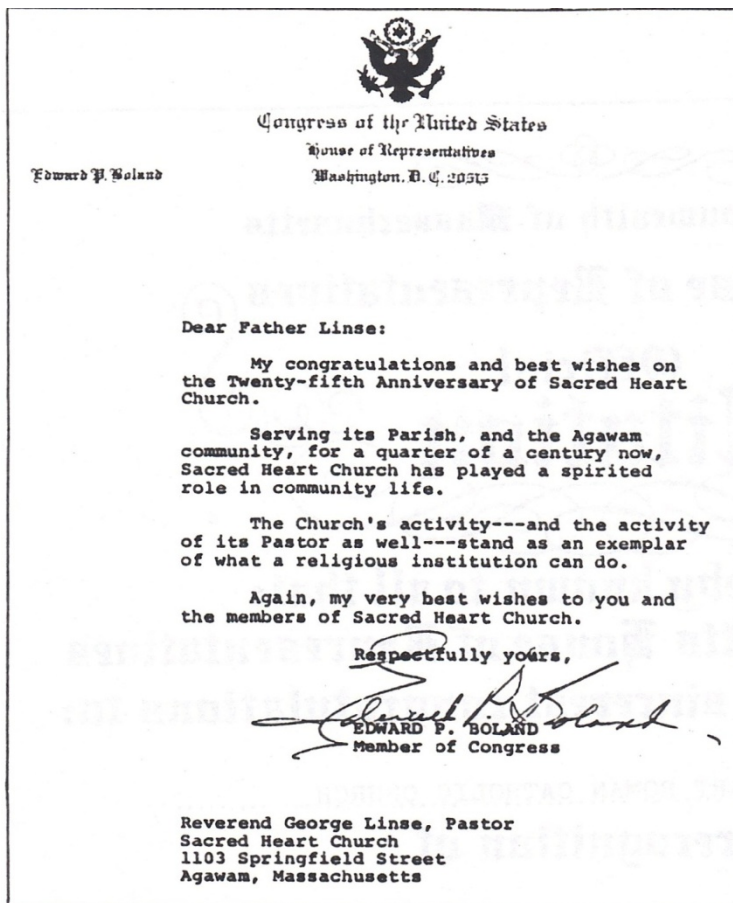
Given this 20th day of APRIL..... 1971
at the State House, Boston, Massachusetts

by: *David M. Bartley*
Speaker

Proposed by: Representative Edward W. Connelly
9th Hampden District

Representative David M. Bartley
10th Hampden District







FRANCIS W. SARGENT
GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

May 20, 1971

TO THE REVEREND CLERGY AND PARISHIONERS,
SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,
FEEDING HILLS, MASSACHUSETTS

I am pleased to extend to you the cordial greetings of the Commonwealth as you observe the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the canonical establishment of Sacred Heart Parish.

As you mark this observance, I know that you are thankful for the development of your parish both spiritually and socially.

I urge you to uphold the hallowed traditions of the Church which has blessed your lives and enriched your community.

With cordial best wishes,

Sincerely,

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 17, 1971

Parishioners
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, Mass. 01001

Dear Friends:

I know that the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church is celebrating its Twenty-fifth Anniversary this year and I just wanted to extend my most sincere congratulations to you and your community on this important event.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

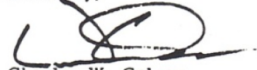
April 23, 1971

Dear Father Linse:

Through the courtesy of Representative Edward W. Connelly, President Nixon has learned that the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church of Feeding Hills, Massachusetts, is marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding this year.

The President sends greetings and warm good wishes to all who will be gathering for this special occasion. It is hoped your outstanding accomplishments of the past two and one-half decades may be but the forerunner of nobler achievements in the years that lie ahead.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Colson
Special Counsel to the President

The Reverend George A. Linse, C.S.S.
The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts 01001



Office of
SELECTMEN
Board of Health
Agawam, Massachusetts

May 21, 1971

Reverend George Linse
Sacred Heart Church
1103 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts
01030


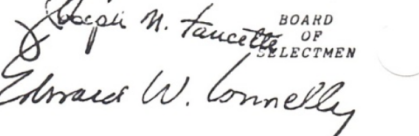
Dear Father Linse,

The Agawam Board of Selectmen take this opportunity to extend their heartfelt congratulations in observance of the 25th Anniversary of the Sacred Heart Parish.

It is truly symbolic that the growth of Sacred Heart closely parallels the Town of Agawam itself.

As we anticipate Agawam to continue its growth pattern, so do we wish that your Parish continues its growth - not only physically but spiritually.

Sincerely,



BOARD
OF
SELECTMEN

EWG:jlf

THRU THE YEARS HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF SACRED HEART CHURCH

1946		
February	8	The late Thomas M. O'Leary of Springfield declared a Territorial Parish in Feeding Hills. The Sacred Heart Church, located on William Street, to be the place of worship.
	10	Roy Robert Giordano was the first baby baptized in the newly formed Parish.
April	27	First marriage in the old church since it became a Territorial Parish. The couple married were William Fisher and Isabelle Placido.
May	12	A class of 17 children received their First Holy Communion.
June	12	The first Confirmation Class were confirmed at the Mt. Carmel Church in Springfield.
	20	Rev. Leonard Della Badia, CSS was named Pastor of the newly formed Parish.
1947		
January	25	A 25th Wedding Anniversary Mass was celebrated for Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Botelho. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Leonard Della Badia.
October	30	The CYO held a combination Halloween and Birthday Party in honor of Irene Botelho and Richard Chaisson in the Church Hall on William Street.
November	24	The first Sacred Heart Minstrel was held at the Agawam High School. The name of the show was "Minstrel Frolics".
December	21	The Rosary Altar Society was formed with Charlotte Austin serving as President.
1948		
February	6	A Skating Carnival was held on the skating rink in the rear of the church on William Street. William Gonet and Barbara Lip-tak Giordano were chosen as King and Queen of the Carnival. Members of the Springfield Indian Hockey Team were the judges for the various events for the children. Prizes were donated by the merchants of Springfield, West Springfield and Agawam.
	24	The Holy Name Society was formed with James Bruno serving as President
		12 acres of land were purchased from the Homer Flower Estate on the corner of Springfield, Mill and Poplar Streets.
May	8	The first Mother's Day Communion Breakfast for the Parish was held at the American Legion Hall. A very large delegation of Parishioners attended.
December		CYO held a Christmas Party in the Church Hall.

- 1949
- March 22 The Sacred Heart Athletic Association was organized.
- 26 The Knights of the Altar were founded.
- April 6 Edward Borgatti was elected President of The Athletic Association.
- 17 The Lady of Fatima Sodality was organized.
- May The annual Mother's Day Communion Breakfast for the Parish was held at the Granger School in Feeding Hills Center. A very large number of parishioners attended.
- June 19 The Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated with an outdoor Mass at the rear of the Church.
- July 30 Sports' Night was held at the rear of the Church. This was sponsored by the Sacred Heart Athletic Association. Boxing was the feature event. Harmon Smith of Agawam High School was the guest speaker.
- August A Gala Carnival was held on Springfield Street on the grounds opposite Harding Street.
- Bishop Thomas M. O'Leary died.
- 1950
- February 8 - 9 "Gay Nineties" Minstrel Show sponsored by the Parish was held at the Agawam High School.
- March Bishop Christopher Weldon was installed as the Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield. Our Diocese was split. Worcester became a separate Diocese.
- August Sacred Heart 12-14 year Baseball Team won tournament playoff by beating the Longmeadow Rockets.
- 1951
- June 23-24-25 "Cotton Town" Minstrel Show sponsored by the Parish was held at the Agawam High School.
- 1952
- March 2 The first Mission since the Parish was declared was held in the Church on William Street. The Mission was conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers.
- The women of the Parish made a Retreat at the Monastery in West Springfield.
- 1953
- July 20-25 The Rosary Altar Society held their first Auction.
- Lawn Party held on the new property at Springfield, Mill and Poplar Streets.
- November 28 Men of the Parish made a Retreat at the Monastery in West Springfield.

1955		
April	17-18	The Parish sponsored a show called "Circus Time". The show was held at the Agawam High School.
June		The Parish sponsored a float for the Agawam Centennial. The Parishioners erected and decorated this float. Rented house at 900 Springfield Street for use as the Parish Rectory. Prior to this the Rectory was in the rear of the Church on William Street.
1956		
June		Rev. Leonard Della Badia, CSS, was transferred to the Sacred Heart Parish in Timmins, Canada. Rev. George Linse, CSS, was assigned as Pastor of the Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills replacing Father Leonard. The growth of the Parish in the first 10 years was from 500 Parishioners in 1946 to 1,827 Parishioners in 1956.
1957		
April		The Sacred Heart "Variety Show" was held at the High School Auditorium.
June		Sacred Heart Cub Baseball League organized through the efforts of Father Keefe. Richard Borgatti was named Head Coach.
June	26-29	The Sacred Heart Lawn Party was held on the grounds at Springfield, Mill and Poplar Streets.
August	25	The first Parish Picnic was held at the Agawam Sportsman's Club grounds.
1958		
January		Bishop Christopher J. Weldon granted the Parish permission to erect a new Church.
March		Purchased new Rectory at 1100 Springfield Street, opposite the present Rectory.
May		Captains and workers canvassed the Parishioners for Building Fund pledges. This campaign was a great success.
	16	Ground Breaking Ceremonies for the new Church were held. Bishop Christopher J. Weldon turned the first shovel of earth at the Ground Breaking Ceremonies.
	31	Rev. Charles Gonet, a Parish member of the Sacred Heart Church, was ordained into the Priesthood at Rome. Father Gonet celebrated his first Mass on July 13, 1958 at St. Ann's Church in West Springfield.
July	3	The first Fourth of July bonfire was held on the Church grounds at Poplar Street. The affair consisted of games, sports events, refreshments and a huge bonfire. This became an annual affair.

1959			
January			The St. Vincent De Paul Conference was organized.
June	6		First marriage in the new Sacred Heart Church. The couple were Janet Borgatti and Richard White. This marriage was performed prior to the dedication of the new Church.
	20		The new Sacred Heart Church was dedicated.
	21		The first Masses were held in the new Church on Sunday, June 21, 1959.
			For the first time a First Communion Class received Holy Communion in the new Church.
October			First time Confirmation Class received the Sacrament in the new Church.
1960			
April			The No. 1 baseball diamond and dugouts were completed.
			The Show "Spring Revue" sponsored by the Parish was held at the Agawam High School.
April	3		Knights of the Altar installed in the new Church.
			First Boy Scout Troop #75 was organized with Arthur Gokey as Scout Master.
1961			
July			Picnic was held at the Twin Oaks grounds.
			Pavilion on Church grounds was completed.
August	12		"This Is Your Life" Party held for Father Keefe. Fr. Keefe was transferred to Wellesley.
			Electronic bells installed in the new Church. Bells rang for the first time on August 19, 1962.
			Parish Picnic held at the Church Pavilion for the first time.
1962			
July			Boy Scout Troup made a trip to Washington D.C. Fr. Linse and four parishioners were chaperons.
August			Electronic bells installed in the new church. Bells rang for the first time on August 19, 1962.
			Parish Picnic held at the Church Pavilion for the first time.
1963			
January	14		Fr. Joseph Henchey, Assistant Pastor, left for his new assignment in Virginia.
	20		Fr. Richard Farrell was assigned as new Assistant Pastor of Sacred Heart Church.
March			The Nocturnal Adoration Society was organized.
July			Permanent kitchen was erected at the Eastern States Exposition grounds for our dining booth.
1964			
July			Completed permanent building at the Eastern States Exposition grounds to serve as our dining booth. This building replaced the tents used for the dining booth. The work erecting this building was done by parishioners.

1964		
July		Mrs. Mary Soderman handpainted a beautiful picture on the north wall of the building. The mural is of the new Church and surrounding area.
August		Father Richard Farrell transferred to Virginia. Father David Gallagher assigned as Assistant Pastor of our Church.
1965		
November 23		Rev. James Shea, CSS, assigned as Assistant Pastor of the Sacred Heart Church.
1966		
		The growth of the Parish in the last ten years was from 1,825 Parishioners in 1956 to 3,308 Parishioners in 1966. Purchase of three acres of property on Poplar Street adjoining the present church property.
1967		
February		Mortgage on the new Church paid off.
March		The first St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance was held at St. Ann's Country Club.
July		Purchased present Rectory at 1103 Springfield Street.
November		Sold former Rectory at 1100 Springfield Street.
1968		
April		Through the zealous efforts of Father Shea, lights were installed at the No. 1 Baseball Diamond in order that the Little League of the Parish may play baseball under the lights.
May	5	The first Night Baseball Game by the Church Little League was played under the lights.
June	2	Father James Shea celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood. Celebration was held at the Agawam Armory.
June	16	Father George Linse celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood. Celebration was held at the Springfield Municipal Auditorium.
1969		
April	27	The Parish Council was organized.
October		Edward Shore, Manager of the West Springfield Coliseum visited the Church grounds. He donated \$400.00 to get a skating rink at our Recreation Field into operation. This rink is west of the No. 1 Baseball Diamond.
December		A rink fence was installed around the skating rink. A portable trailer was purchased from the Grossman Lumber Company of Braintree, Mass. This trailer was converted into a large room located at the rink. The room has four large windows overlooking the rink and is heated making it very comfortable for the children to put on and take off their skates.

1970		
January	1	The first outdoor Hockey Game was played on the new skating rink.
March	8	The first Vigil Mass was celebrated in our Church.
May	26	Started construction of our new Social Center Building.
November	22	The first Christmas Bazaar, sponsored by the Parish, was held at the new Social Center. The Center had not been totally completed and dedicated as yet.
1971		
January	17	Our new Social Center was dedicated by Bishop Christopher J. Weldon. The CCD Classes were being conducted in the new Social Center with approximately 1,000 children enrolled.
February		Father James Shea, four councilors (all high school boys) and 43 children of the Parish made a bus trip to Washington, D. C. The trip included stops at West Point, an overnight stay at Mt. Carmel Church at White Plains, N. Y., a brief visit to New York and then on to Woodbridge, Va. The children were quartered at Our Lady of Angel Church Hall in Woodbridge during their stay at Washington. The group commuted from Woodbridge to Washington where they visited the Capitol, the White House and all the historical sites. The last day of their trip consisted of a trip to New York City where the group took in a wonderful show. This has been an annual affair for about three years.
April		The Sacred Heart Basketball League concluded another very fine season with Stanley Chmielewski as Basketball Commissioner. About 180 children participated in the league. The league consisted of six 8-10 year old teams, six 10-12 year old teams and three 13-15 year old teams.
May	5	The Sacred Heart Little League and Girls' Softball League opened the 1971 season. A parade headed by the Agawam High School Band marched from the Church Hall on William Street down Mill Street to the Recreation Field for the Opening Day Ceremonies.
May	23	First Communion Class received Holy Communion. A breakfast for the children was held in the Social Center and each child was given a gift by the Rosary Altar Society.
May	27	Confirmation Class was Confirmed by Most Rev. Thomas R. Manning, OFM. Three hockey teams were entered into the Greater Springfield Junior Hockey League. One 8-10 year old team, one 10-12 year old team and one 12-14 year old team. In all there are 72 children on these teams. The 10-12 year old team won the Championship of their league. The 8-10 year old team was leading their league the middle of May. These hockey teams were organized in 1965.

HISTORY OF THE PARISH

During the infant years of Feeding Hills, the Catholic people attended churches in North Agawam, West Springfield and Springfield, with the hope that someday they would have a church of their own.

In 1926, a portable wooden Chapel, which had been used as St. Anthony's Church in North Agawam, was moved to William Street in Feeding Hills. It was a Mission Chapel of Mount Carmel Church and the Stigmatine Fathers celebrated Mass here each Sunday.

In June of 1944, Rev. Adolph Ferrari, CSS, was placed in charge of the Mission Church of Feeding Hills.

In February of 1946, the late Bishop Thomas O'Leary declared a Territorial Parish in Feeding Hills. The place of worship was to be at the Sacred Heart Church on William Street.

In June of 1946, Rev. Leonard Della Badia, CSS, was assigned as first Pastor of the Sacred Heart Church. At the time of its founding, the Parish consisted of 175 families. The portable Church could only seat 125 people, and was much too small for the growing community. From 1946 to 1959, the Parishioners worked and saved and prayed that they might be able to build a Church large enough for all the Catholics in Feeding Hills.

In 1948, through the untiring efforts of Father Leonard Della Badia, approximately 12 acres of land were purchased at the corner of Springfield, Mill and Poplar Streets on which the new Church, Social Center and Recreation area then stand.

Father George Linse, CSS was assigned as Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in June of 1956, and worked feverishly for a new Church, and on June 20, 1959, the new Church was dedicated, and the first Mass was celebrated in the new Church on Sunday, June 21, 1959.

Because of the hundreds of children attending Sunday School Classes and CCD Classes, it became necessary to build a building for these Church affairs. Through the untiring efforts of Father Linse, the Bishop approved the erection of our new Social Center in the year 1970, and this beautiful building was completed and dedicated on January 17, 1971.

§§§§§