

THE STIGMATINE NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCE



Volume III

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Churches:
Waltham, Milford & Feeding Hills, MA in the USA;
S. Timmins ON & Vancouver BC in Canada**

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Rev. Joseph Henchey, CSS
Tereza Lopes [Lay Stigmatine]

On the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, 2015
Latest revised on the birthday of St. Gaspar Bertoni, 2024

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PRESENTATION

In this volume, we will go through the history of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Churches in Waltham, Milford and Feeding Hills in the state of Massachusetts, United States, and in S. Timmins, ON and Vancouver, BC in Canada, and their mission churches.

The only of all these Churches covered in this volume that still remains as Stigmatine is the centenary Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Milford, Massachusetts, under the pastorate of Father Richard Scioli, CSS.

Follow a chart with the Mother-Churches covered in this volume, and afterwards a map with their locations as well:

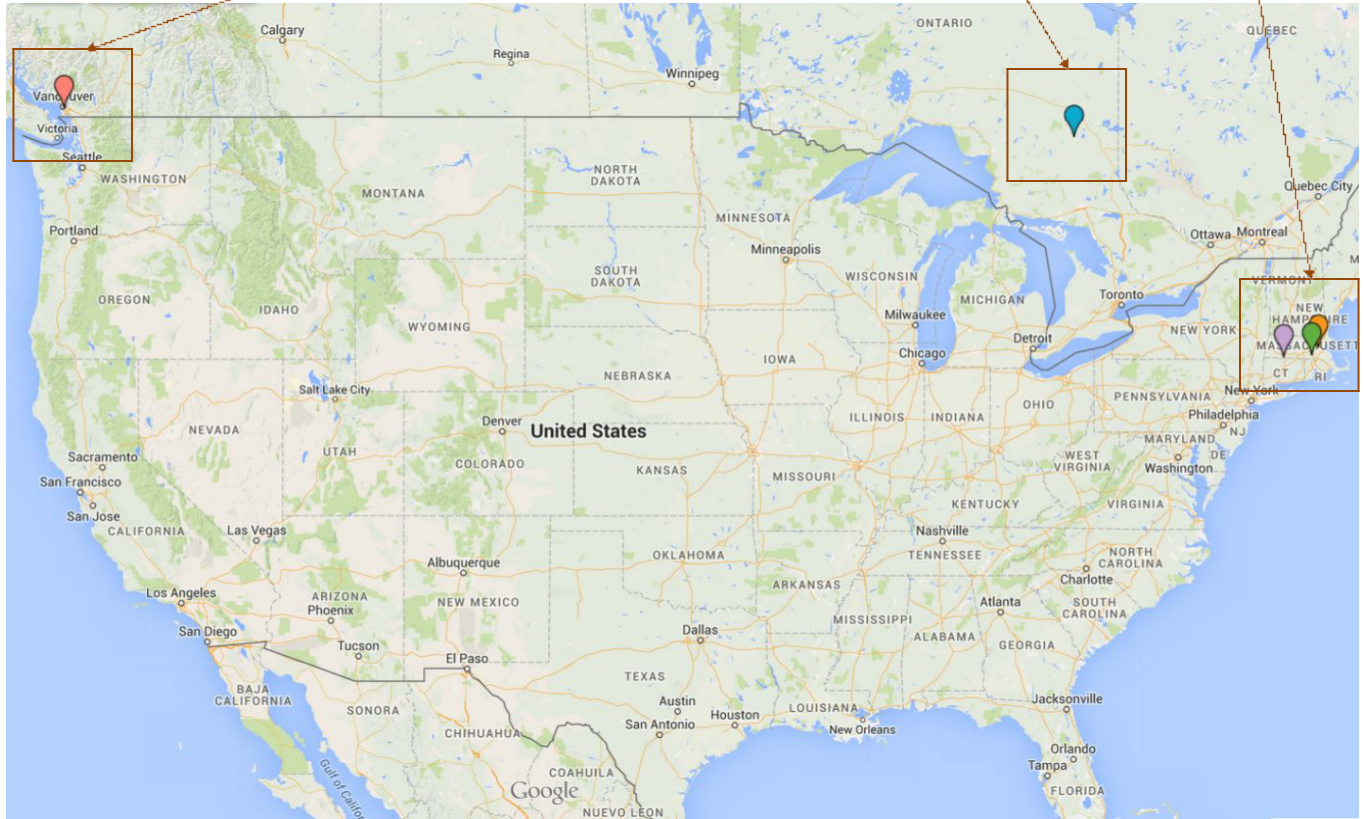
Volume III: Sacred Heart of Jesus Churches	Chapter 6	Sacred Heart	Waltham MA
		Holy Family	East Lynn MA
		St. Francis	Lynn MA
	Chapter 7	Sacred Heart	Milford , MA
	Chapter 8	Sacred Heart	Feeding Hills MA
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	Chapter 10	Sacred Heart	Vancouver BC Canada

Vancouver, BC,
Canada

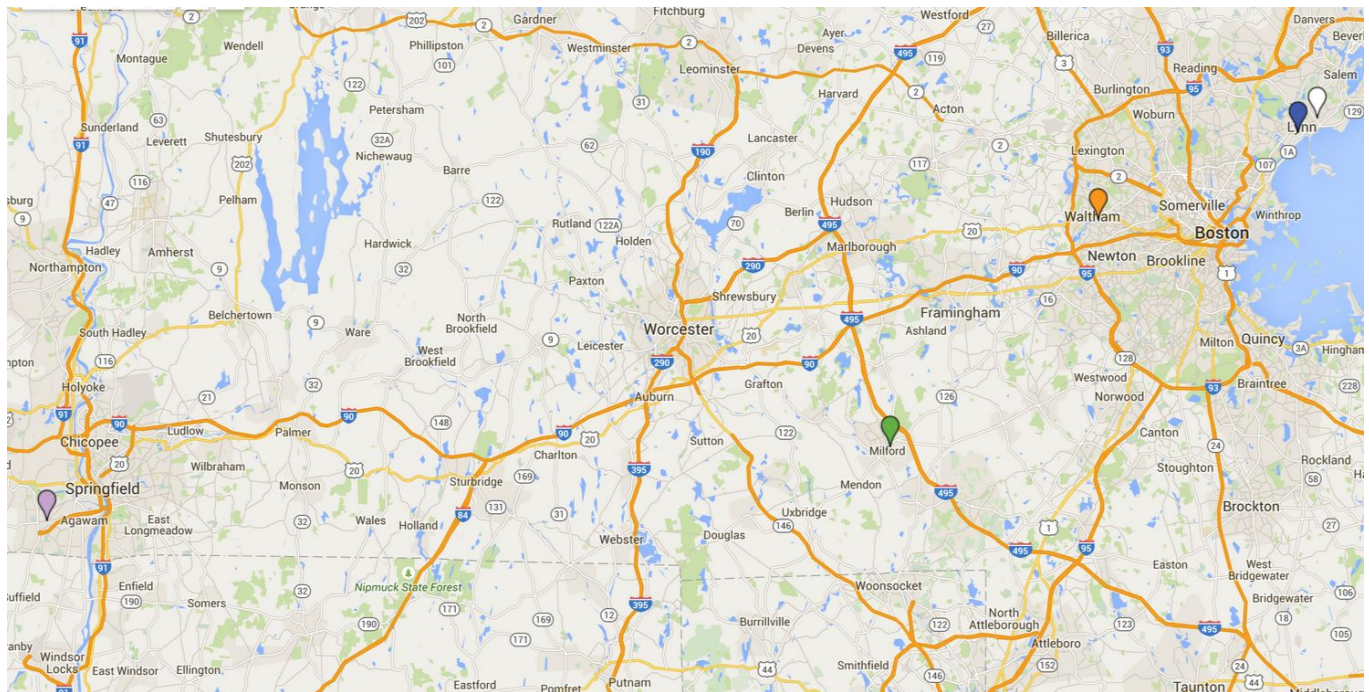
Location (A General View):

S. Timmins, ON,
Canada

Massachusetts



Detailed view: Massachusetts, USA:





Waltham, MA

Sacred Heart Church
311 River Street
Waltham, MA 02154

Founder:
Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta
1922

Including the following Churches in area:



East Lynn, MA

Holy Family Church
26 Bessom Street
East Lynn, MA 01902

Founder:
Rev. Paul Sozzi, CPS
1922



Lynn, MA

St. Francis Church
108 Blossom Street
West Lynn, MA 01028

Founder:
Father Joseph Nardone
1925



Milford, MA

Sacred Heart Church
5 East Main Street
Milford, MA 01757

Foundation:
1913

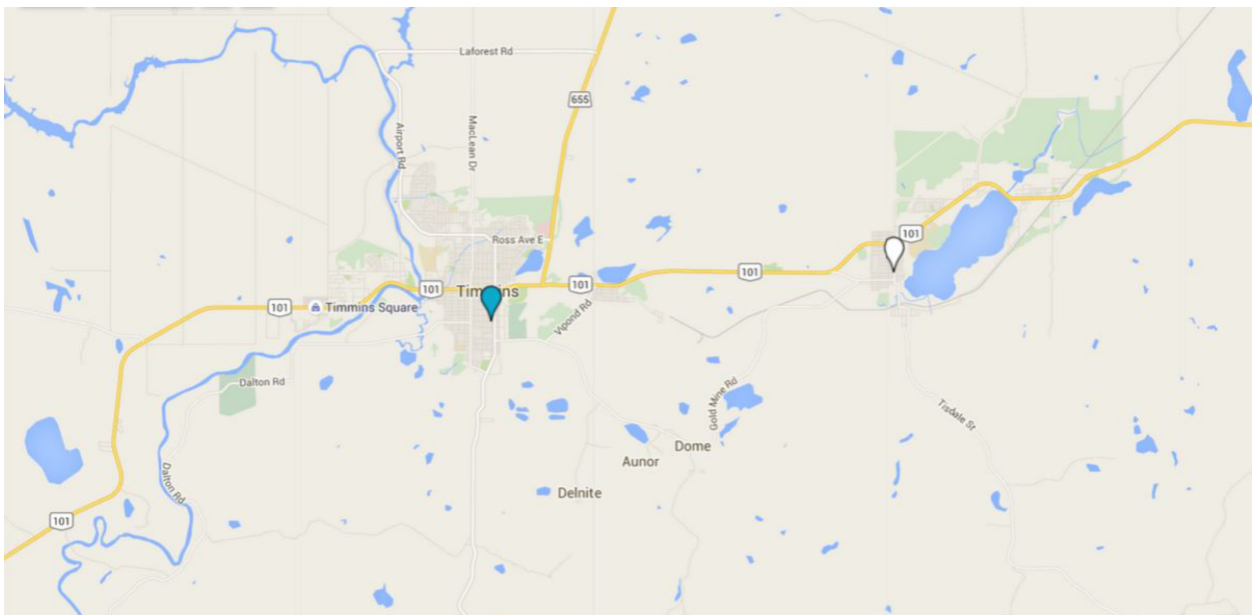


Feeding Hills, MA

Sacred Heart Church
1103 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Foundation:
1946
First Pastor:
Rev. Leonard Della Badia, C.P.S.

Detailed view: S. Timmins, in Ontario, Canada:





South Timmins,
ON, Canada

Sacred Heart Church
296 Cedar Street
South Timmins, ON,
Canada

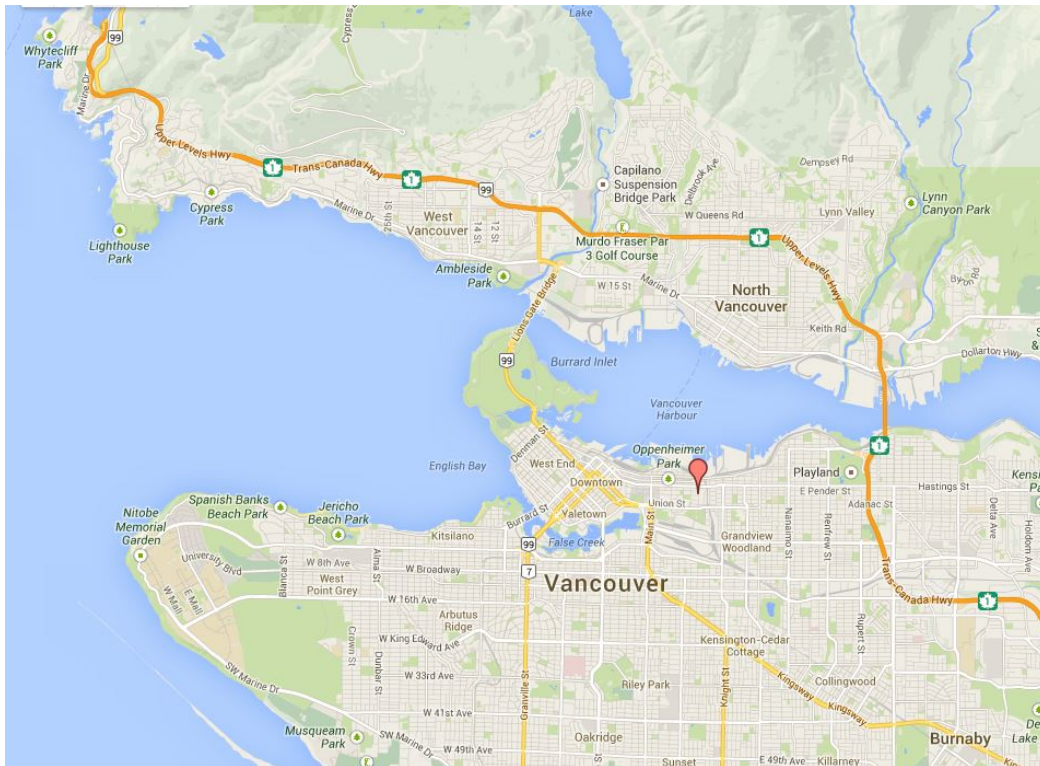
Including the following mission Church:



South Porcupine,
ON, Canada

St. Joachim
86 Crawford
South Porcupine, ON,
Canada

Detailed view: Vancouver, in British Columbia, Canada:

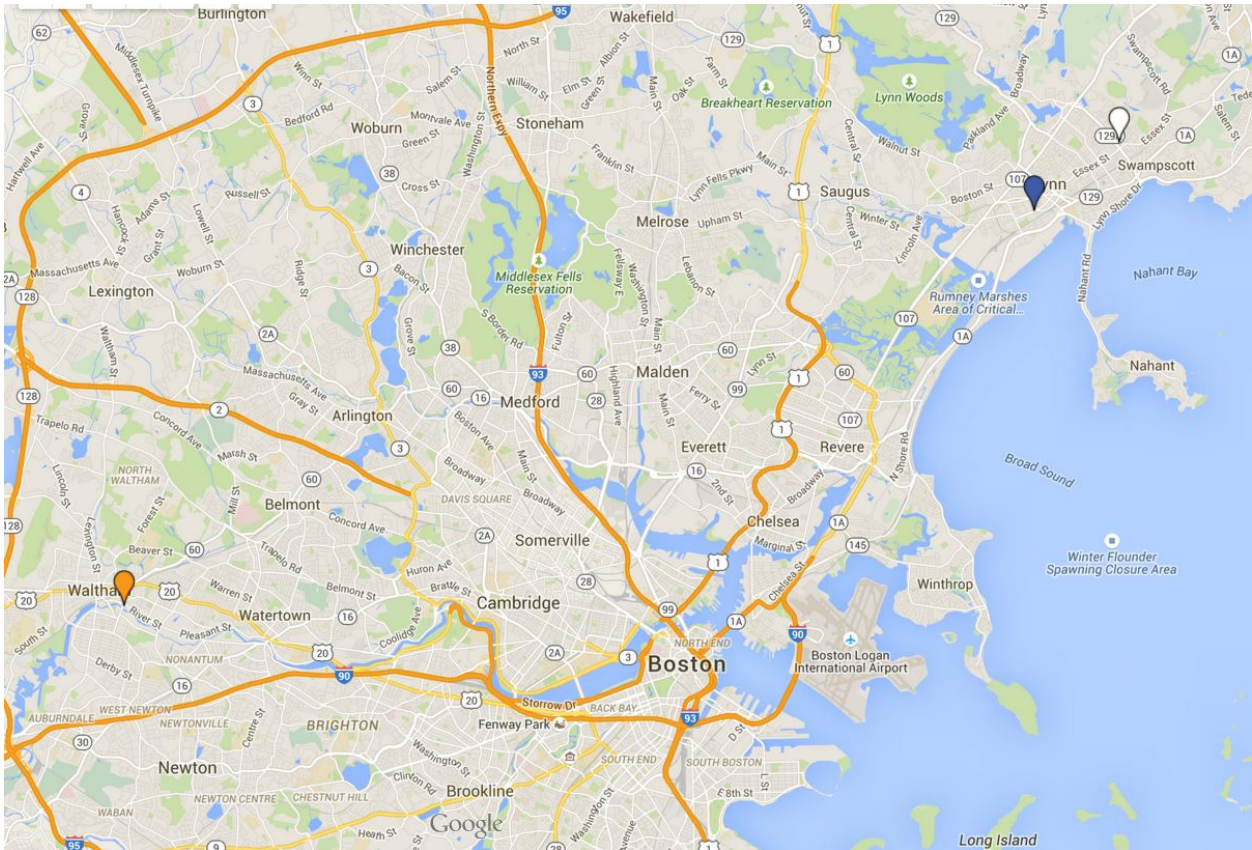


Vancouver, BC,
Canada

Sacred Heart Church
525 Campbell Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6A 3K5
Canada

Foundation:
1905

CHAPTER SIX: SACRED HEART CHURCH in WALTHAM, MA and CHURCHES in area



Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

Waltham, MA



Holy Family Church

East Lynn, MA



Saint Francis Church

Lynn, MA

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PART ONE**Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Waltham, MA**

Founder:
Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta, C.P.S.
1922



“The old church building, located at the corner of River and Jackson Sts. (now the site of a two-story apartment building), was serving as headquarters of the Gilbrai Mutual Aid organization.”

I. Historical Background

Merger with the Past

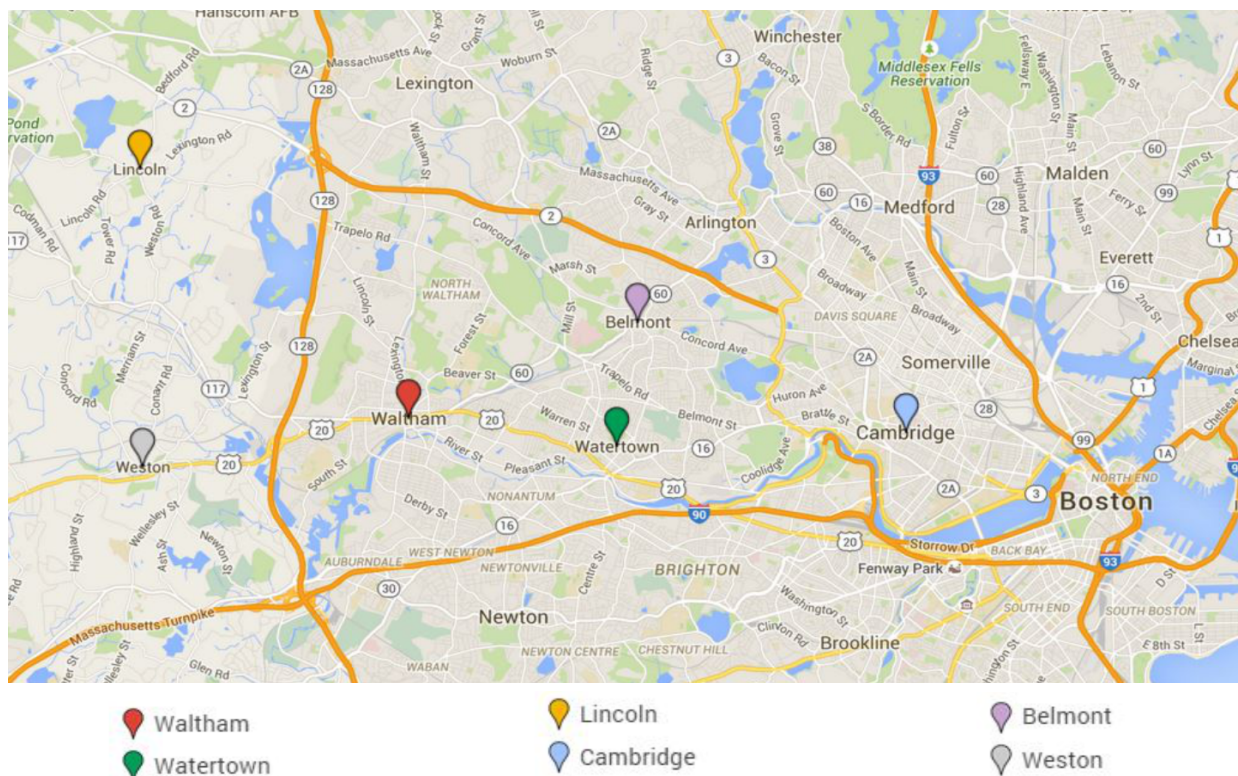
When the first waves of Italian Americans were drawn to Waltham by the city's burgeoning industry it marked a merging of two great traditions — a historical New England community with the sores and traditions of the Old World.

This merger has played a major role in Waltham's emergence as a nationally renowned home of industry, and, of course, the birth and development of the national parish of Sacred Heart Church.

To fully understand and appreciate the climate in which Sacred Heart Church was conceived and has grown, we should go back through the centuries for a brief look at the history of the Waltham area.

Our City

Waltham's parent city, Watertown, was one of the original towns of the Massachusetts Bay Colony - in early years, perhaps the largest and most important town in the colony. Watertown, in those pre-colonial days, included Watertown as it is at present, part of Cambridge, the larger part of Belmont, all of Waltham north of the river, all of Weston, and part of Lincoln.



The Waltham area was first visited by white men when Governor John Winthrop and his party arrived here in June, 1630.

The first known settlers in the Waltham area were Edward Garfield and John Page, who established themselves in about 1640. It is hard to visualize amidst today's industrial complex, but prior to 1674 few houses were found west of the present eastern boundary of Waltham - all early records indicate that fear of Indian raids held back the movement west.

The early history of our city was dotted with incidents typically New England— regular disputes at town meetings. In true democratic tradition, one of the major arguments arose over the place where the town meetings would be held.

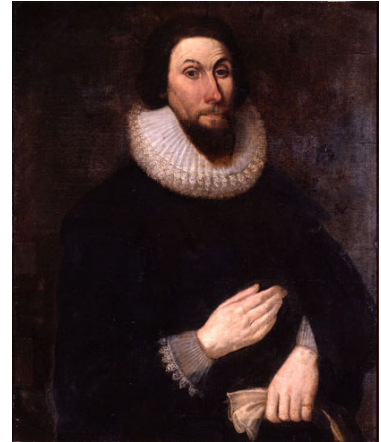
As far back as 1715 it was suggested at a town meeting that the town be separated because of the inability of residents to decide on a mutually agreeable meeting place. The debates over the site of the town hall were resolved in 1738, when the western precinct of Watertown officially became the town of Waltham.

As the years rolled on the residents of the growing Watertown-Waltham area played their role in the history of our nation. More than 50 townsmen from Waltham served in the French and Indian Wars. The town was represented by 292 men in the Revolutionary War. Early visitors to the thriving community included General Washington in 1789 and President Monroe in 1817.

Industry Arrives

Waltham's history as an industrial center was already beginning to take shape. Industry had begun in the Waltham vicinity in 1662, when a fulling mill was built on Beaver Brook, and in 1679 with the creation of a grist mill on Stony Brook. This was a break from the traditional pattern, where craftsmen and artisans also doubled as farmers or worked out of their own homes.

Paper mills had been established in the Waltham area in 1788 and 1794. Cotton mills were springing up all through New England in the early part of the 19th Century, and, in towns like Waltham, brought with them large population increases. Other famous Waltham industries were also arriving on the scene in those years. The Waltham Watch Company was making fine watches as early as 1854. This company earned several of the industrial "firsts" for which Waltham is noted throughout the



John Winthrop - 2nd, 6th,
9th and 12th Governor of the
Massachusetts Bay Colony
[1587/8 - † 1649]

country — it produced the first railroad watches, the first speedometer, the first tachometer, and the first gyroscope.

The Boston Manufacturing Company, which was to play such a vital part in the early history of Sacred Heart Parish, built a power mill in 1813 on a site near what is now the Moody St. Bridge. It was here — for the first time in America—that all operations that went into the making of cotton cloth were contained under one roof. This power mill is considered the true beginning of Waltham's rise as an industrial center. The Boston Manufacturing Company established the Waltham Bleachery & Dye Works, Inc., in 1820- this was believed to be the first Bleachery and Dye's works in the world.

And so on through the years -- industry thrived and Waltham progressed as a showplace of industrial growth.

The City of Waltham was incorporated by an Act of the Massachusetts Legislature on June 2, 1884, following a prolonged, bitter controversy which was aired in spirited fashion at town meetings.

Many prominent citizens were reluctant, even in 1883-84, to abandon the traditional system of town administration that had proved so satisfactory for 146 years.

Agriculture Prevails

At that time agricultural pursuits still occupied the attentions of many of our citizens, particularly in the northern area of the city. The Boston Manufacturing Company and its subsidiary, the Waltham Bleachery and Dye Works, together employed more than 2,100 workers. The Waltham Watch Company had over 2,000 workers in 1883.

By the time the first Italian-American citizens began arriving in Waltham, the old New England industrial pattern was already beginning to change. Old industries were moving away and others were fading into obscurity, and new ones were rising to take their place. The Boston Manufacturing Company decided, in 1930, to close down, after suffering financial losses since 1923. The firm then had only 350 employees, compared to about 2,000 in the 1880's. The company was finally sold by receivers in 1933.

The Depression

While difficult times plagued our country during and after the Depression of the 1930's, Waltham became the home of countless new manufacturing firms and branches of leading industrial companies. According to a 1959 compilation, industries which had come to Waltham since 1928 included two in the atomic field, 13 in the building, construction, home equipment and clothing trades, 11 electronic firms, 20 machine work and parts, tools and tool design industries, and numerous others.

The same 1959 report indicated that Waltham was home for 200 industries, nearly 500 stores, and had an assessed valuation of \$100,000,000.

II. Early Times [1922 – 1928]

Birth of Our Parish

Now that we have seen the history of Waltham, let's take a closer look at the city as it was when the Stigmatine Fathers arrived to establish Sacred Heart Parish.

Of the 32,000 people residing in Waltham in 1922, about 4,000 were of Italian descent. The majority of the city's population was Protestant—New England Yankees, Swedish, German, etc. - while the largest part of the Catholic population was Irish. Two churches served the Irish population, St. Mary's and St. Charles', with the Charles River serving as the parish boundaries. There was also a church for French Catholics, St. Joseph.

While there was no church for the Italian people, an active church committee, under the lead of Salvatore Trapanese, had been in operation for eight years.



William Cardinal O'Connell,
Archbishop of Boston
[1907 – 1944]

The Italian population was not completely homogenous, but some 80 per cent were members of the Sicilian-Eolian group, with the other 20 per cent coming from Calabria, Abruzzi, and Campania. Other areas of Italy were poorly represented, if at all.

Our forefathers, on their arrival in this country, were blessed with the assistance of their kinsmen and friends from their former home towns. Some families played host to hundreds of *paesani* in the course of the immigration years, and through their generosity gained great power and prestige among their countrymen.

It wasn't long, however, before the influence of the immigrants' initial benefactors began to wane. Soon old and new feuds came to a head, cultural and language barriers plagued the Italo-Americans - a situation common to most immigrant groups. However, responsible leaders of government, church, and the Italian community looked on this chaotic state of affairs with apprehension and sought a remedy.

It was decided by William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, that an Italian priest should be located to establish a church for the community. Cardinal O'Connell asked Father James Baxter, then pastor of St. Mary's, to find a suitable pastor.

The Old Church

The two leading industries of Waltham at that time presented quite different faces to the Italian people. The Waltham Watch Factory did not allow aliens to work for it. The Boston Manufacturing Company, however, was in need of workers and hired all comers. Two officials of the company, James Adams and Miss Ellen Masterson, were aware of the aspirations of the Italian Church Committee, and since so many Italians were working for the company, they offered the group the free use of the Old Swedish Church.



This is our original parish church, now the site of an apartment house, at the corner of River and Jackson Streets. The church could accommodate about 180 parishioners. The lack of vestments, altar, chalice, and other liturgical items were filled through the generosity of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, who offered these and other materials necessary for the celebration of Mass.

The old church building, located at the corner of River and Jackson Sts. (now the site of a two-story apartment building), was serving as headquarters of the Gilbrai Mutual Aid organization. It had been built at a cost of \$4,500 in 1892, and could accommodate about 180 people. The Swedish church had a sacristy, but there were no vestments, no church equipment, no altar stone, nor altar, nor confessionals, stations, or statues.

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur came to the aid of the fledgling parish and donated an altar, chalice, vestments, and other materials necessary for the celebration of Mass. A few days later, on November 27, 1922, Father Baxter donated a larger altar.

The first two priests to serve Sacred Heart formed an ideal combination. Father Raymond Dalla Porta, C.P.S., an Ordinary Visitor of the Stigmatine Fathers in America, was the founder and first pastor, and co-founder and first assistant was Father William Ludessi, C.P.S. (1922-24). Father Dalla Porta had become interested in the parish situation and after speaking with Cardinal O'Connell, the Stigmatine Fathers were entrusted with the spiritual care of the Italian people in the Waltham area.



Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta, C.P.S.
Founding Pastor
[1922 – 1928]

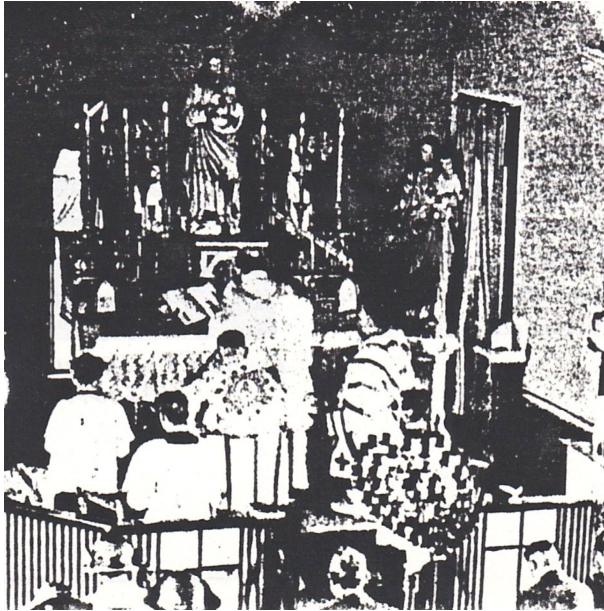


Rev. William Ludessi, C.P.S.
Co-founder and 1st Assistant Pastor
[1922 – 1924]
2nd Pastor [1928 – 1932]

Fathers Dalla Porta and Ludessi took up residence in Lynn, and from there the two priests made the necessary contacts and laid the groundwork for the parish. Although no documents can be found, it is known that the parish was entrusted to the Stigmatine Fathers on **November 6, 1922**.

The First Mass

The greatest milestone for any parish – the celebration of its first Mass – took place on November 26, 1922, at River and Jackson streets. Three Masses were offered each Sunday in those early days, compared to the ten in the 80's and to four nowadays (2015).



The first Mass in Sacred Heart Parish was celebrated on November 26, 1922, in the Old Swedish Church at the corner of River and Jackson Streets. The church was then owned by the Boston Manufacturing Company, who generously offered it to the parish.

Father Dalla Porta met with members of the Italian Church Committee on December 10, 1922 and received a gift of \$ 796 from Mr. Trapanese, the president. The old committee was then dissolved and a new one established.

On that same day the two priests moved into the home of Alfonso Cannistraro, where two rooms had been placed at their disposal. They remained there for three weeks, and then began the new year by taking up residence in a rented house at 369 River St. The new home offered few luxuries, and the pastor and his curate provided their own furnishings, handled their housekeeping, and did their own cooking.

Social Activities

The young parish, under Father Dalla Porta's guidance, did not lose any time in providing a wealth of spiritual and social events for the dedicated parishioners. Within a matter of months after the church opened on November 26, 1922, a parish census (showing 4,000 parishioners) was taken, Sunday school classes were inaugurated, with about 160 attending, and First Holy Communion was celebrated for 30 devout children on March 29, 1923.

Parish records show that attendance at First Friday Mass was light for the morning services, but that a 7:30 P. M. Mass drew good crowds. The first Midnight Mass was celebrated in 1922, and thousands of people were left outside the small church building.

The zeal which has typified the activities of all of our parish societies over the years was also evident right at the very beginning of Sacred Heart Parish. Our Young Ladies Sodality, founded on January 7, 1923, had an initial membership of 25. The group met on the first and third Sundays of the month in the church basement. The first meeting of the Sodality and the first corporate Communion breakfast were held on January 10, and on the same day the young ladies held a whist party which drew a profit of \$80. A dance, held soon after the group's founding, drew 500 people to Nuttings.

The Holy Name Society¹

The parish Holy Name Society, under Father Ludessi, made an even more impressive debut. Founded on February 27, 1923 with a membership of 80, the group held its first corporate Communion on March 11, and its first social event on April 1, which made a profit of \$500.

L'Amico della Verità

L'Amico della Verità (The Friend of Ike Truth), a monthly magazine financed by local ads, was printed and distributed for the first time in February, 1923. The colorful publication, which proved to be a valuable spiritual and social asset to the parish, achieved a circulation of about 2,000 copies before it fell victim to the Depression in 1932.

The Christian Mother's Society

The Christian Mothers' Society was begun in April, 1923, with 25 members. Their first social event, a three-day lawn party, netted \$1,000. On Thanksgiving day of that year the combined societies sponsored a dance and lottery which showed a profit of \$1,000 - very impressive figures for that day, and a tribute to the hard work and ceaseless efforts of the membership of our various parish groups.

¹ The Holy Name Society (formally known as "The Confraternity of the Holy Names of God and Jesus") is a confraternity of the Catholic Church that promotes reverence for the sacred names of God and Jesus Christ, obedience and loyalty to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, and the personal sanctification and holiness of its members. [Source: <http://www.nahns.com>].

Some unfortunate circumstances

Just when the parish was getting on its feet a succession of unfortunate circumstances put a block in the path of Sacred Heart Church's growth. First, on January, 1924, a fire broke out in the church, forcing the Fathers to conduct religious services in the basement for about one month. Father Baxter of St. Mary's and Father Richard of St. Joseph's both offered the use of their churches, but their generous gestures were declined.

Then during February of the same year Father Dalla Porta took sick. He was operated on, but was unable to return to his duties until the middle of March.

A third sad note, one that touched the hearts of all of our parishioners, was the first departure of a parish priest. On March 21, 1924 Father Ludessi was given a farewell party by the parish societies. Among his many gifts were an expensive typewriter, a suitcase, cigars, a gold chain, flowers, and a cash gift. He left the next day to take up duties in West Springfield.

Our Second Curate



Rev. Joseph Costa, C.P.S.
Assistant Pastor
[1924 – 25] – [1929 – 31]

Father Ludessi was succeeded by Father Joseph Costa on April 4, 1924. Father Costa remained until February of the following year when he was sent to Pittsfield and was in turn succeeded by Father Victor Formulo.

The energetic Father Dalla Porta visited Cardinal O'Connell in April, 1924, and obtained permission to buy a tract of land for a new church and rectory. A 32,744 square-foot plot at the corner of River and Newton Sts. was purchased on July 3 of that year for \$2,900. Permission to build a church (called a bungalow in the early parish records) for \$10,000 was granted on August 5, work began on September 14, and the work was completed in time for Midnight Mass, attended by hundreds of joyous parishioners, justifiably proud of the role they had played in constructing the new church. The new church seated about 360 people.

Changing times are reflected in the parish records of other earlier expenses. A pipe organ was bought second-hand for \$700, and later another second-hand organ was purchased for \$1,800. A hub mobile (new car) was purchased to ease the travels of the pastor and his curate — this car cost \$632. The latter investment did not prove profitable — the entire value of the car was reduced to the then going price for scrap

metal when the car lost a decision with a truck in January, 1925. Fortunately, Fathers Dalla Porta and Costa were unhurt.



Rev. Victor Formulo, C.P.S.
Assistant Pastor
[1925 – 1926]

Parish events continued to move swiftly in those early years. In 1924 Father Dalla Porta planned to build a parish school, the parish observed its first Forty-Hours, and the Sacrament of Confirmation was given to 161 souls by Bishop Anderson on June 9. During the following year the house council, student house, and parish formed at single canonical unit. It was also decided to accept the invitation of the Notre Dame Sisters to celebrate daily Mass for them. Father Dalla Porta was also appointed confessor to the Sisters, and served in that capacity for three years.

Sunday School Begins

Two Sisters of Notre Dame came to teach Sunday School to the children of the parish on February 21, 1926, and their successors have nobly carried on this task right up to the present day. The number of teaching Sisters has now risen to almost twenty, nearly all second-year novices.

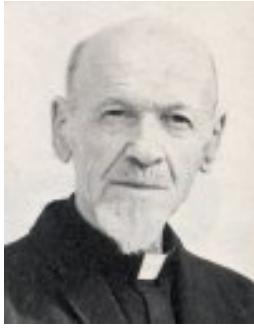
That most familiar of all parish institutions — the monthly collection — was inaugurated in 1925, with the results being printed in *L'Amico della Verità*. Work on the church continued steadily. The basement, with a capacity of 350, was dug out and made ready for use on July 16, 1925.

Additional lots were purchased for the parish by the forward-looking Father Dalla Porta. The new lots, about 11,700 square feet, cost the parish \$4,500 on October 29, 1925.

The social highlight of the year 1925 was the celebration of Columbus Day, marking the first time that the City of Waltham observed this holiday which is so dear to our parishioners.

Parents who desired their children to retain a great share of their Old World background were pleased when the parish offered afternoon classes in Italian. The classes, taught for an hour and a half a day, three days a week, had an enrollment of 50.

The parish tradition of topflight entertainment was given its birth on February 14, 1926, when Father Dario Wegher was assigned to the parish. Working with the



Rev. Dario Wegler, C.P.S.
Assistant Pastor
[1926 – 1927]

men of the parish he formed a dramatic club and put on plays in Sicilian dialect and in Italian. The plays were given a warm reception by parishioners, and another note of sadness crept into the parish life when he was sent to China the following year.

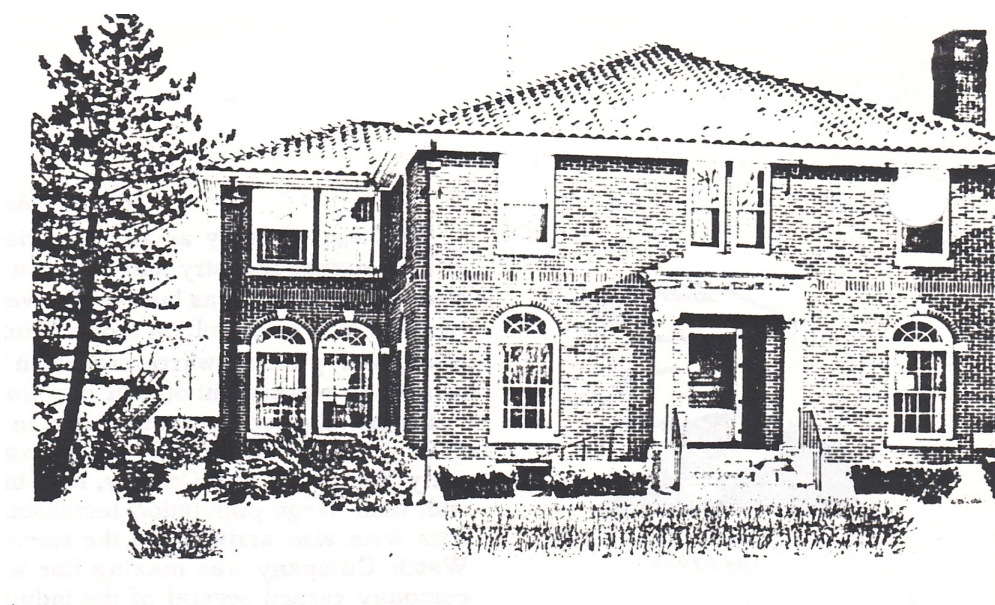
The first parish carnival, held in May, 1926, was an enormous success, with parishioners and neighbors alike, and a profit of \$1,200 was shown at the end of the eight-day affair.

A Rectory is Built

The year 1927 saw the parish receive permission to build a rectory for \$11,000, with an \$8,000 mortgage, and the approval of plans for the rectory by the Cardinal. The City of Waltham played its share in the construction of this building, which still serves our pastor and his assistants, when the mayor visited the church and authorized the city to donate a few yards of city land which crossed church property. Cardinal O'Connell also paid a visit to the parish in that year and offered words of high praise for the work of the Stigmatine Fathers among the Italian people.



Rev. Henry Gabos, C.P.S.
Assistant Pastor
[1927 – 1928]



Sacred Heart Rectory, constructed in 1927.

III. New Pastor, Father Ludessi [1928 – 1932]

Father Dalla Porta Leaves

Another farewell night was held later that year — Father Raymond Dalla Porta, our founder and the guiding light of our initial development, was honored on November 25, 1928. The affair was a glowing tribute to the many services that he offered to Sacred Heart Church and to Father Dalla Porta as an individual. Not only was he honored by his Italian parishioners, but a great number of friends of the parish turned out to bid him a fond goodbye.

Father Dalla Porta faced a difficult task, and mastered well. Not only did he face the problems that any new parish must contend with, he had to overcome the prejudices and obstacles which confronted him at every turn.

A glowing statement on his tenure as pastor not only praises his financial know-how, his musical acumen (forming and training a choir second to none in the area), his tact, and his guiding genius, but also notes his spirit of sacrifice and zeal, which found him in the confessional at all hours of the day and night, and, despite his own problems in an infant parish, saw him finding time to conduct missions, novenas, and services in other parishes.

Father William Ludessi came "home" to serve as pastor from 1928 to 1932, ably assisted by Father Costa. His choice as pastor was fortuitous, for he had immense personal popularity and was well-acquainted within the parish. The confidence and security which he inspired in the parish was needed for two reasons—first, because the parishioners missed their beloved founder-pastor, and second, because the Depression was on the horizon, and times were becoming bad.

Outstanding Missions

Being trained and experienced in giving missions himself, Father Ludessi was very particular in his choice of priests who were invited to Sacred Heart to preach. He was rewarded by excellent deliveries from the best available clergy, and one of his choices, Father Irwin, S.J., was credited with bringing about a permanent increase in the number of children attending Mass and Sunday School in the parish. Father Irwin's memorable mission had children flocking to the church, "just as though it were a party."

L'Amico della Verità, 1929, page 101, lists parishioners who contributed to a remodeling of the church. However, bad times had arrived and plans for enlarging the

church had to be abandoned, and the parish's monthly magazine was discontinued in 1931.

IV. Church is redecorated; the Holy Name Parade [1932 – 1947]



Rev. Leo Sella, C.P.S.
3rd Pastor
[1932 – 1934]

While the Depression caused much hardship among our parishioners, it also had some saving graces. Father Leo Sella became pastor in 1932, with Father Dalla Via serving as his assistant. Our people had faced trials and tribulations before, but the financial collapse, taking place throughout the country brought our people even more closely together than ever before.

Some 750 Italian families were on welfare, and a list of 142 families who at one time or another received aid from Father Sella is available in the parish records. Our pastor devoted great amounts of time to comforting the poor, and there are still many among our parishioners who remember his great contribution to helping them ride out these difficult years.

The Holy Name Society is canonically erected

In 1933, there was canonically erected The Holy Name Society of Sacred Heart Church. The Sodality received its charter on May, 1933, while its register reports the date of the canonical erection of the Sodality dating from Father Sella's petition to Cardinal O'Connell on October, 1933.



Rev. Stefano Dalla Via, C.P.S.
Assistant Pastor
[1928 – 29] - [1931 – 40]
7th Pastor [1952 – –]

New pastor, Father Baratella

Father Sella was succeeded by Father Emilio Baratella, who worked faithfully for the betterment of our parish and its people until poor health forced his resignation in 1944.

Father Dalla Via continued as his assistant until April of 1940, when he was called by his superiors to Rome to help in the administration of the entire Stigmatine Congregation. His place as assistant was taken by Father Humbert Zampieri.



Rev. Emilio Baratella, C.P.S.
4th Pastor
[1934 - 1944]

Father Baratella is well remembered among our older parishioners as a strong individualist. He felt that the Church of God was in itself enough society, and all parish societies save the Christian Mothers were abolished. He ignored civic societies and asserted his rights in whatever way he saw fit.

During his tenure as pastor, Father Baratella insisted on strict observance of all the rules of the Liturgy, and endeavored constantly to make any and all religious services as solemn and dignified as possible. He had a great love for children and held for himself the privilege of delivering the sermon at all First Communion services.

Although sometimes seeming severe, Father Baratella had a strong compassion for the people, particularly the sick – once a name was on his list he visited the person faithfully, no matter how long the malady lasted.

Another colorful sight during Father Baratella's pastorship was seeing him station himself at the front door next to the offering box. Church income had been reduced since the Depression years, and the door offering had become a mere pittance, so the pastor said the first Masses every Sunday and then stood watch over church-goers at the later Masses.

Two loans, totaling \$ 22,000, were taken out during his pastorate, and both were paid in full, besides other debts that had been inherited from his predecessors. These funds allowed him to renovate the church basement, build the sacristy and the rooms behind it, and purchase new land which squared out the church property. At the end of his tenure as pastor the parish was debt-free and had \$ 25,600 on deposit in the bank.



Rev. Humbert Zampieri, C.P.S.
Assistant Pastor
[1940 – 1944]
5th Pastor [1944 – 1945]

The Church is Redecorated

Father Humbert Zampieri was pastor of Sacred Heart in 1944-45. He was ably assisted in his dedicated chores by Father Joseph Amodio, who arrived on August 13, 1944, and Father Guido Mespilli, who came in June, 1945. His zeal prompted him to supervise the redecoration of the church, and during his short period as caretaker of the souls of Sacred Heart parish he also added a 6:00 a.m. Mass to those already scheduled.

New Pastor, Father Zuliani

The next in the list of successful pastors at Sacred Heart Church was Father Louis Zuliani, who served from 1945 to 1952. His assistants included Father Adolph Ferrari, Father Mespilli, Father Amodio, and Father Thomas Henry².

With the return of our young men from World War II new vim and vigor were added to the growing parish organizations. Church societies seized a new grip on life, and social and religious activities became more numerous and better attended. Parish groups have kept carefully documented records and scrap books of their activities and leaflets, bulletins and magazines have appeared regularly to keep our parishioners well posted on events of interest.



Rev. Louis Zuliani, C.P.S.
6th Pastor [1945 – 1952]

From the time that Father Dalla Porta built the rectory, the Beaver Brook which crossed church property had been troublesome. Father Dalla Porta settled for changing the course of the brook a few yards to make room for the rectory, Father Ludessi built a retaining wall, and Father Baratella had asked city officials to have something done in the way of sanitation, but nothing came of his appeals.

Father Zuliani, however, decided that something must be done. He contacted city and state officials, and through perseverance was able to have the brook sealed in concrete. Filling in the land was a mere matter of time. The chore was handled by the Vincenzo Olivo family, in return for permission to use the lower end of the property for storage.

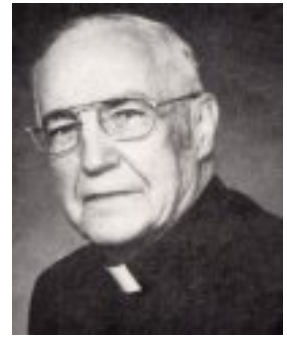
² No further information was found on Father Thomas Henry, except that he did not die as Stigmatine.



Rev. Joseph Amodio, C.P.S.
Assistant Pastor
[1944 – 1947]



Rev. Guido Mespilli, C.P.S.
Assistant Pastor
[1944 – 1947]



Rev. Adolph Ferrari, C.P.S.
Assistant Pastor
[1946]

2,000 Attend Sunday Mass

At this time there were seven Sunday Masses, with an average total attendance of 2,000 people. Already the parish realized that the church was being outgrown by the swelling congregation. Another indication of growth – not only of Sacred Heart Parish, but also of Waltham – is the fact that 520 names appear on the Honor Roll of World War II veterans. This total is more than the entire city's contribution to most earlier wars.

The Stigmatine Student House

When the Stigmatine Fathers opened a student house on Lexington St., the parish priests began going there for their main meals, a practice which continued until the time that Father Sella became pastor in June, 1932. From that time on the priests dined in their rectory.

The student house proved a valuable asset to the parish right from the start. Fathers Balestrazzi, Lona and Zampieri all helped out at the house prior to 1934, when young American priests assisted the parish on weekends. Old parish records show Father Paul Piskel to have served the longest (1938-1941), and to have been extremely helpful to our young parishioners.

Assistants at the parish taught many subjects before this additional work for the parochial curates was halted in 1944. Father Zampieri and Father Stephen Dalla Via, our present pastor, were among the most popular teachers at the student house. The parish and student house were considered a canonical unit until the time of Father Sella in 1932.

The Holy Name Parade

A highlight of our parish history, and one in which our parishioners took justifiable pride, occurred during the National Holy Name Convention held in Boston in 1947. On October 5 an enormous parade, witnessed by crowds estimated at between three and three and one-half million people, was sponsored by the Holy Name groups, and a float entered by Sacred Heart, entitled “The Last Judgment”, won second place recognition. Some 78 entries traveled a three-mile route, and were viewed by what is believed to be the largest crowd ever gathered in New England, if not the entire country.



The Sacred Heart float during the enormous national Holy Name Convention parade in Boston, in 1947.

Enthusiasm was so great over the Sacred Heart delegation's recognition, that a parade of the parish's float and marching units was arranged for the following day in Waltham, and newsreels of the beautiful parade were shown in Waltham's Embassy Theatre for four days.

The theme of the expertly designed float was the Crucifixion, which according to a newspaper report of the time, “created an awed, reverent reaction as it moved slowly through Boston’s thronged streets”. Dr. Nicholas J. Semenza, long active in Holy Name Society affairs and a leader in the preparation of this book, was chairman of the float and parade committee.

Press account on this parade can be found on **Appendix 6.1**.

V. The Silver Jubilee and first post-Silver years [1947 - 1952]

A memorable week in our parish's colorful history occurred during the observance of the Silver Anniversary of the parish. It was highlighted on November 27, 1947, with a Pontifical Mass, celebrated by Most Reverend John J. Wright, then Auxiliary Bishop of Boston and now Bishop of Pittsburgh. Bishop Wright was assisted by Father Zuliani, pastor.

On the following evening a jubilee Banquet was held at Hovey Institute, with Cardinal Cushing (then Archbishop) as the main speaker. The Cardinal congratulated the Stigmatine Fathers for their outstanding work in Waltham and for their generous priestly contribution to the Archdiocese.

Very Reverend Paul V. Daly, Provincial of the North American Province of the Stigmatine Fathers, and Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta, founder of the parish, and all other former pastors and curates also attended. Some 400 jubilant parishioners and friends of the parish attended the event, along with civic and religious leaders of the area.

Further information on the Silver Jubilee can be found on **Appendix 6.2**.

The Holy Name Society

Father Zuliani was spiritual director of the Society from 1945; he was replaced briefly by Father Ferrari when he went to visit his parents in Italy, and later became spiritual director until 1952.

The year 1947, aided by the return of enthusiastic war veterans, was a banner one for the Society, which then numbered 350 members. Attendance at the monthly Communion and meetings was high, and the membership took an active role in many parish and social activities.

In 1951 Father Zuliani established *The Pulse*, a monthly Holy Name magazine.

The parish archives contain records of duties collected from parish sodalities from February, 1929 through 1936. Father Zuliani's neat hand recorded the group's activities from 1945-51, and in the back of the register the names of the Sodality spiritual directors are included, among them Fathers Amodio and Mespilli.

Father Amodio reorganized the Sodality and inaugurated a monthly magazine, *The Shining Light*, for its members.

The new Greater Minstrel Show

The new Greater Minstrel Show made its appearance in 1949, and rapidly proved to be a profitable and popular affair. Inaugurated in 1949, the popular entertainment was in great demand even outside the parish and performed at various veterans' hospitals and other institutions.

Other annual affairs which brought our people together during these days included an annual parish excursion, The Annual Corporate Communion & Breakfast of Italian Male Civic Organizations, field days at Wellesley, outings, Christmas parties, and others. These varied functions gave all of our parishioners a chance to partake in enjoyable social activities, and also provided them with the opportunity to aid their church financially.

The Catholic Youth Organization Flourishes

Parish records show that some 300 children were attending Sunday School during the early 1950's, and during Father Zuliani's tenure as pastor the C.Y.O. flourished and grew into an important parish asset.

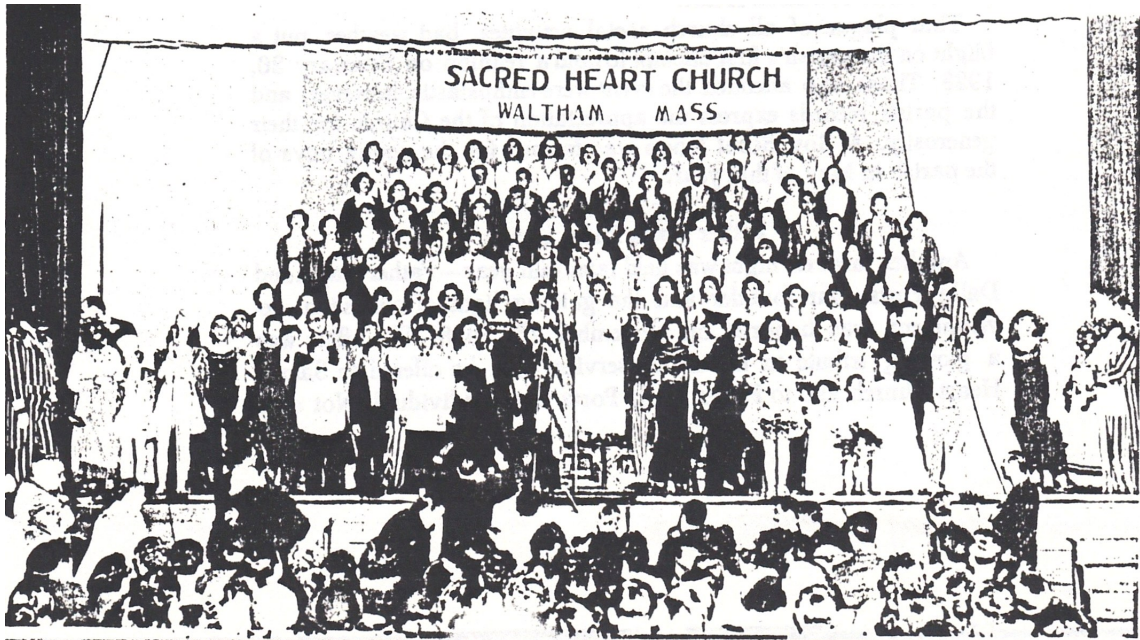
VI. Father Dalla Via returns; the built of a new Church [1952 – 1964]

When Father Stephen Dalla Via returned to the parish in 1952, he was faced with several problems, the most important of which was the overcrowding at Sunday Masses. Early in his tenure, the Mass schedule was increased to 10 per Sunday, and still services were too crowded. Although the Chancery Office refused Father Dalla Via's request to purchase additional land and to start a drive for a parish school, a petition to build a new church was approved in 1958.

Plans for the new church, estimated to cost about \$500,000 - 600,000, were submitted and approved, and a building fund committee was established to start a drive for \$250,000. Even though no work had actually started, the committee had nearly \$100,000 in the bank by the end of June, 1959.

During Father Dalla Via's tenure, the estimated parish population - including all those of Italian descent in the Waltham area – has risen to about 15,000. This figure includes many, of course, who attend Sunday Mass in their own geographic parish but who look to Sacred Heart to fill the many other spiritual and social activities vided by the Church in contemporary times.

An increase in the number of parish assistants has been adroitly utilized by Father Dalla Via to handle the spiritual needs of our vast congregation, and to strengthen and solidify our various societies. During his tenure, Father Amodio organized a new church society for married women, The Holy Rosary Guild, Father Thomas Henry brought the scouts back to life and directed the C.Y.O., Father Angelo DaPrai took over the Guild and the Minstrel Show, and also guided the Chi-Ro group through its first faltering steps.



This happy scene shows cast members of one of Sacred Heart Parish's annual Minstrel Shows.

The tradition of good entertainment in the parish dates back to 1926 and the founding of a dramatic club by Father Dario Wegher. The initial group put on plays in Sicilian dialect and Italian.

Fathers John Ecker, Leo Geraci, James Flanagan, and Ettore Canzano also served the parish during these years, handling the wide variety of parochial chores so vital to the operations of such an enormous institution. Father Ecker is remembered for his outstanding efforts in the pulpit, Father Geraci for his work in improving the parish property, Father Flanagan for his difficult task in compiling a parish history (from which much of the detail in this book is taken), and Father Canzano for his work with the youth of the parish and the altar boys.



(L-R) Fathers Angelo DaPrai, John Ecker, Leo Geraci, James Flanagan and Ettore Canzano also served Sacred Heart Parish during Father Dalla Via's tenure

The First Steps

On a warm Fall day in September, 1958, Father Stephen Dalia Via, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, asked Aldo A. Minotti, prominent Waltham architect, if he would be interested in designing a new church for the parish. Mr. Minotti gratefully accepted the honor, and was soon hard at work undertaking the task outlined for him - it was, incidentally, the first church that he had been called upon to design.



Archdiocesan chancellor, Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Sennott, officiates at groundbreaking ceremonies for our new church on January, 1960. Father Dalla Via, pastor of Sacred Heart, also takes part in the ceremony.

Art and Architecture of the Sacred Church

Architect Minotti was given free rein to apply his own inventiveness and imagination. The church was to seat about 900 parishioners and was to be located on the land adjoining the parish rectory. The style was not to be bound by popular tradition, not to be merely modern - it was to be a glimpse into the future. The nature of Waltham itself - an energetic, modern industrial city with a heavy concentration of electronics work—was to be reflected in the church. Four contemporary materials were to be used: glass, concrete, steel and aluminum. This restriction was made so that the structure would require little maintenance.

The latest thinking among church authorities was sought out regarding contemporary art and architecture. Inspiration was taken from the forward-looking views of both Pope Pius XII and Pope John XXIII, ardent supporters of contemporary design and the idea that there should be a completely new emphasis in church building.

It was decided that the concept "Unity of Faith" would be the dominant theme of the church. This meant the elimination from the church proper of many of the devotional symbols to which we have become accustomed, and the relocation of several parts of the church.

Visits to the studios of prominent artists by Father Dalia Via, Msgr. Sennott, and Mr. Minotti indicated the need for an evocative art in a contemporary style. However, abstract art was ruled out, because it was felt that only a handful of aesthetes would be appreciative of abstract art and symbolism, while this art would be vague and meaningless to most parishioners.

The dominating theme of the architecture – the Unity of Faith - necessitated the removal of side altars, candles, and saints' statues from the nave, and the concentration of all lines and motifs toward the altar. Nothing in the design would serve to distract the devout communicant from the Mass and its meaning.

The floor plan of the church is oriented from east to west, according to Church tradition. The main entrance is to the west. The nave itself is a parabola in form, the design bringing our attention to direct focus on the beautiful altar. The choir is placed in a mezzanine above the ambulatory around the front of the altar, and is screened.

Another distinctive feature of the new Sacred Heart Church is the addition of two quiet rooms at the rear of the nave - one for mothers with infants, the other for wheel-chairs.



The ambulatory surrounding the rear of the Sanctuary connects the north and south porticos, and leads to the chapels of the Holy Eucharist and the Blessed Mother. To the rear of this area are priest's and working sacristies, with a private office for consultations.

The narthex is our introduction to the church, and serves as both vestibule and corridor. It leads into the impressive Baptistry, which is placed in the northwest corner, separate from the church, following the dictates of ancient liturgy. At the southwest corner of the church, in the narthex, is a shrine dedicated to the Madonna and Child. Plans have been completed with a basement under the entire church, including modern lavatories and heating equipment, while the balance of the area will be used for an additional church if needed.

The design of the superstructure was a result of the architecture's desire to express devotional aspirations. Available structural techniques can achieve, in durable metals requiring little maintenance, any form that the architect wished to express his feelings.

The resultant shape of Sacred Heart Church removes all structures from the line of sight, affording an uncluttered view of the altar for all. The great steel arches are braced with cross-ties and purlins to form an extremely lightweight fabric, weighing eleven pounds per-square-foot.

The height is 65 feet, with a base of 85 feet. The exterior is covered with anodized aluminum one-sixteenth of an inch thick. The outside of the walls is formed by interlocking panes three feet by nine feet.

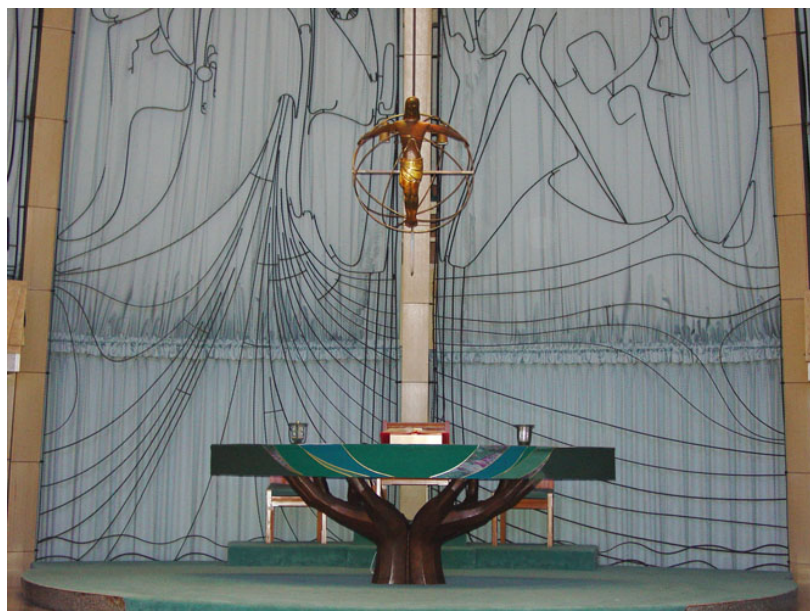
They are completely weather-tight and expand and contract within themselves. This system allows replacements if necessary, and prevents the buckling common in thin metal walls. The present green color will face to a more pleasant neutral in the next year or two.



The exterior expression of the architectural elements not a part of the church proper, but accessory to it, were treated in different materials – with a definitely different texture – in order to strongly accent the church itself. Blown concrete was selected because of its strength, which allows a thin shell and a softness of texture. The Baptistry and narthex were executed in glass. Thus, the great freedom of the architect in expressing himself was unlimited in form and in the use of durable and substantive material.

The steel structure of the nave is highlighted by the capping of the arches. The interior arches give a strong accent to the focal point, which is the altar.

The altar is capped with a single slab of Pietrasanra Dorata marble, eleven feet by four feet, supported by two large cast bronze hands in the act of giving grace.





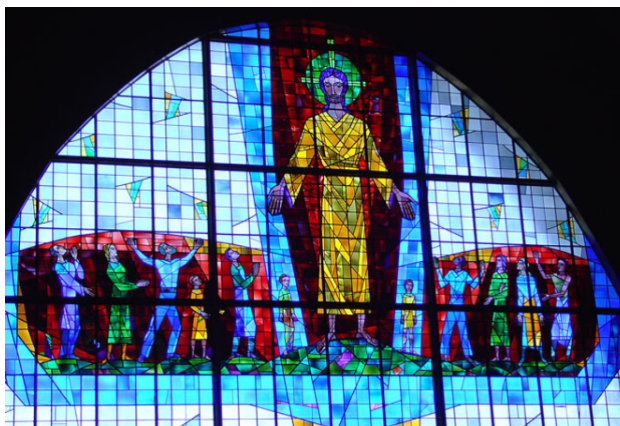
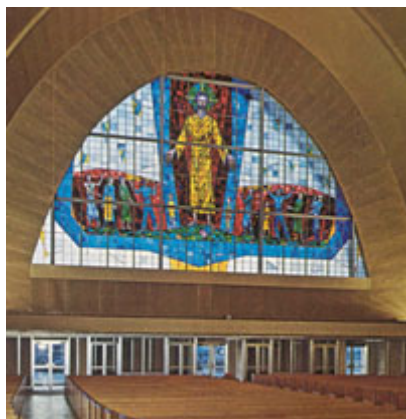
The Communion rail is an extension of the altar, of the same marble, and in turn is supported by reclining wrought iron figures whose extended hands seek grace. These figures represent our yearning for the gifts of God.

Above the altar the large Trinity window with the Lamb Triumphant symbolizes man's eternal hope for salvation. From the Trinity flows all life, as exemplified by the wrought iron grille which flows down across the choir opening to the level of the ambulatory, and surrounds it in waving lines. From this "river" grows the tree of life, upward into the area of the choir and back to the Trinity. To complete the symbolism of the gifts of God to man are the figures of the Apostles and Evangelists, teachers of the Gospel, in the grille across the choir opening. This grille also serves to screen the choir from view and is backed with a light colored drape.



A rendering of Christ's sacrifice for mankind is found in the stained glass windows of the nave, which portray the Way of the Cross. The inspiring stained glass windows surround the congregation and draw it to the spiritual heart of the church. This union of worshippers with the altar is completed by a terracotta frieze, running along the nave walls and forming a cove for the church's lighting.

The title of a church always has deep significance and must be reflected in some phase of the architecture. Mr. Minotti has given the meaning of the Sacred Heart a special position and importance in stained glass in the main west window of our church. Christ stands among his people, from all nations, pursuits and ages, welcoming all to eternal salvation through His sacrifice for us.



The gates of the Baptistry are wrought iron, and in them are seen the four Rivers of Paradise, the Alpha and Omega, and the Peacock. On each side is an ambry for Holy Oils and Cloths. In the center is a symbolic pool, surrounded with plants, into which the priest and Sponsors descend with the child to be baptized. The font is of heavy polished brass plate and is shaped to return to the earth any of the Holy Water or Oils which may be spilled. Above this pool is a brilliant dome of white light, against which is silhouetted a dove executed as a mobile sculpture, the symbol of the Holy Ghost. Three stained glass windows are planned for the future. On the left will be St. John the Baptist, with the quote predicting the coming of the Lord, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'. The center window shows him recognizing the Lord, with the quote "Behold the Lamb of God." In the right window he baptizes Jesus with the inscription 'This is my beloved Son and in Him I am well pleased'.

On the beautiful main altar will be six bronze candle holders, and a crucifix in the center. This crucifix is a symbol of many parts.

During the various ages of man, the artist has always used his environment to give expression to his highest thoughts and ideals. So today the symbol of the atom has become one of the most appropriate symbols of our environment - it is composed of the crossing lines of moving electrons. It was thought appropriate to use the atomic symbol as the Cross of today, and the crucifix is thus a spherical web of crossing lines on which is attached the Corpus. Standing six feet tall on the main altar, it is the symbol of God's work in the modern world in which we live.



The north chapel is the Chapel of the Holy Eucharist, while the south chapel will be dedicated to Our Lady. The ambulatory connects the two chapels, and its cement wall will be used as a Via Sanctorum, the Way of the Saints. Here groups of parishioners from various towns with patron saints may form committees to have their patron represented in Sacred Heart Church. They will select a sculptor or artist to execute their patron, in any medium and design they wish, as a symbol of their devotion. The completion of the chapels and a mosaic shrine to Saints Margaret and Joseph in each of the porticos is also part of the work planned for the future.



Furth

er

refinements of design were carried out in the church's mechanical equipment. Air conditioning was too expensive for the few hours per year that it would be used, so a complete ventilating system was installed in its place. This was combined, for lower cost of construction, with the heating plant. The nave is heated by warm air, which enters through the grilles in the frieze surrounding it.

Lighting by means of the cove was arranged principally because of the desire to remove all impediments from before the altar. Large hanging light fixtures are a distraction and give only down lighting, while the cove lights illuminate by reflection from the gold-finished aluminum - giving the interior of Sacred Heart a generally luminous quality and eliminating spotlighting or other theatrical effects.

The original Baptistry is now the Candle Room:



The southeast corner houses a beautiful statue of Saint Francis of Assisi:



A great deal of discussion was generated around the question of whether or not the Sacred Heart organ should be pipe or electric. There is no dispute on the superior qualities of an expensive pipe organ, since its tones are beyond the reach of an electronic model. However, the architect had to consider the acoustical requirements of our church. With speakers located in sound chambers the sound diffuses, with equal intensity, throughout the nave and its source becomes obscured. This important consideration eliminates the organ as a particular point of interest to the worshipper and relegates the music to its proper place in the Mass - an adjunct to the Mass, rather than a distinct performance. The electronic organ installed in our beautiful Sacred Heart achieves a distinctive quality even though its cost was minimal.

The placement of the church itself brought out many engineering problems. The apparent width of the building lot is in reality restricted by a large underground culvert containing an old brook. Tests revealed a silt deposit about 67 feet deep in the exact spot where the church was to be placed. After many engineering tests and studies were made, requiring almost a year's time, a method of construction called "floating slab" was adopted. It is based on the theory that the loaded structure weighs less than the earth removed, thus an even distribution of load on a heavy concrete base slab does not disturb the sub-soil. The required excavation also provided a basement which was not called for in original architectural plans.

These then are the architectural and design problems, the symbolism and inspiration, that have gone into making Sacred Heart Church the outstandingly beautiful structure that it is - a glowing tribute to the dedicated efforts of our parishioners, who labored with pride and diligence, who donated freely of their time and energies and finances— a fitting contemporary place of worship, symbolic of the modern, progressive city in which it is located—a masterful piece of architecture which pays homage to the many years of dedicated spiritual endeavor by the outstanding clergy who have served the parish these many years - and, above all, a majestic tribute to Our Lord, whose continuing presence in the Tabernacle makes us constantly aware of the bountiful gifts bestowed on our parish through its many years of struggle and triumph, heartache and happiness.



The Rectory and the old Church



The new Church, dedicated in 1964

VII. Towards the Golden Jubilee [1964 – 1972]

Rev. Carmen Russo, CSS
8th Pastor
Pastor of the Golden Jubilee

Father Carmen Russo succeeded Father Stephen Dalla via, becoming the 8th Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Waltham, and during his tenure the parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee, in 1972.

Further information on Golden Jubilee festivities can be found on **Appendix 6.3**.

Father Carmen Russo was succeeded as Pastor by Father Charles Egan, CSS.



Rev. Charles Egan, CSS
9th Pastor

VIII. The 60th Anniversary [1982]

Rev. James Flynn, CSS
10th Pastor [1982 - † 1983]

Father James Flynn succeeded Father Charles Egan and became the 10th Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Waltham. He was pastor on the 60th anniversary of the parish, in 1982.

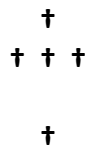
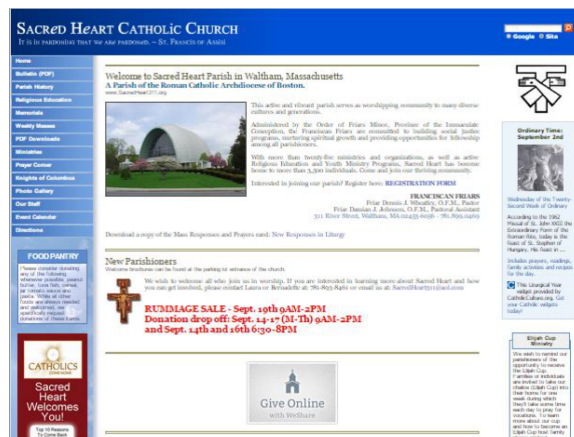
Further information on the 60th anniversary celebrations can be found on **Appendix 6.4**.

IX. After the Stigmatine Era [1983 - present]

Presently (2015), the parish is under the care of the Franciscan Friars: Friar Dennis J. Wheatley, O.F.M., Pastor, and Friar Damian J. Johnson, O.F.M., Pastoral Assistant.

The parish holds a beautiful website, at:

<http://sacredheart311.com/>



Sources:

- **An Initial Chronicle of the U.S.A. Stigmatine Province of the Holy Spouses** – by Rev. Joseph Henchey, C.S.S., Superior Provincial – 1986 (“Typed Book”)
- **Website of Sacred Heart Catholic Church:** <http://sacredheart311.com>

PART TWO**Holy Family Church in East Lynn, MA**

Holy Family Church
East Lynn, MA
Founder:
Rev. Paul Sozzi, CPS
1922



“The Holy Family Parish was established on Sunday, August 13, 1922 with the approval of William Cardinal O’Connell, Archbishop of Boston. It was to serve the immigrant Italian people of the area.”

I. Early Times [1922 – 1926]



Rev. Paul Sozzi, C.P.S.
Founder and 1st Pastor
[1922 - 1929]

The Holy Family Parish was established on Sunday, August 13, 1922 with the approval of William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston. It was to serve the immigrant Italian people of the area. For the first time Italians, as newly naturalized American citizens, could worship God in their own Catholic Church.

It was through the efforts of many Italians in the East Lynn and Swampscott area that \$20,000.00 was raised to purchase property on Bessom Street. The new church, named Holy Family, was a portable wooden edifice. The wooden structure seated 300 persons and was the first portable church in New England.

Father Paul Sozzi, the first Pastor, celebrated Mass on Sunday morning, August 13, 1922 at eight and ten o'clock and gave the sermon in Italian. Assisting at the Masses was Rev. Alfred Balestrazzi, C.P.S., Superior of the Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers in America. During the many years which followed the Stigmatine Fathers provided many young Seminarians and Missionaries to serve the Italian parishioners of the community.



Rev. Alfred Balestrazzi, C.P.S.
Superior of the Stigmatine Fathers
& Brothers in America in 1922

A second building, located behind the church, was erected by the parishioners to serve as function hall. Many dances, penny sales, banquets and other functions were held to raise money to someday erect a permanent church. Other property was purchased so that the priests had a rectory next to the church.

II. Fire and built of a new Church; new Pastors [1926 – 1960]

A disastrous fire leveled the Holy Family Church on the morning of Christmas Day, 1926, following the last Mass and saddened the hearts of Lynn churchgoers. Officers of St. Joseph's Catholic Total Abstinence Society donated the use of the Society's hall on Chestnut Street for Sunday Masses and other religious services. This was used during the winter months. In the spring the social hall in the rear of the church property was used for Mass and other services.

Father Paul Sozzi and his staff began the arduous task of organizing plans for a new Holy Family Church. Within fourteen months, through the untiring efforts of energetic and devoted parish committees, fund-raising activities were completed.



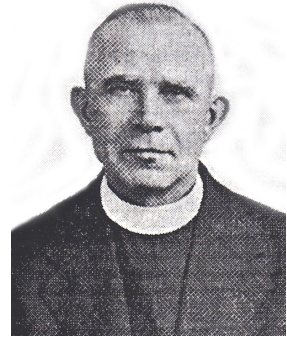
The new Holy Family Church was blessed by Father Sozzi on Sunday morning, February 12, 1928 at a Solemn High Mass attended by more than 600 parishioners. The new church was a basement church of 100 feet in length and 50 feet wide with two additional altars for special Mass celebrations. The main altar was donated by St. Mary's Church.

More than 1,000 parishioners and friends attended the Holy Family Reunion Banquet in celebration of the new church on April 23, 1928. Rev. Monsignor Joseph E. McGlinchey, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, was guest speaker. He spoke in Italian, praising the parishioners for their interest and eagerness in the Italian community. Many Italian dignitaries attended the banquet.

Through the efforts of Father Sozzi, an Italian Mission, the **St. Francis Chapel, was founded on Blossom Street for West Lynn Italians. It was dedicated on November 14, 1926** with the permission of William Cardinal O'Connell of Boston. It was a day long to be remembered in Lynn because of the presence of the Rev. Monsignor Joseph Bolino of Naples, Italy, who was in this country attending the Eucharistic Congress in Chicago.

In July 1929, the parishioners were saddened by the news that Father Sozzi was to be transferred to São Paulo, Brazil.

Rev. Louis Fontana was assigned to Holy Family Parish in 1929. Through the continued support and tireless efforts of the parishioners money was raised so that Father Fontana was able to pay off the total mortgage on the church property, which now included a Rectory directly across the street from the church.



Rev. Louis Fontana, C.P.S.
2nd Pastor [1929 - 1936]

Father Fontana was responsible for the formation of the Blessed Virgin Sodality, Our Lady's Guild, the Holy Rosary Society, and the Holy Name Society which flourished for many years. A social club was also started which held numerous activities for the benefit of the church. Father Fontana left Holy Family Church in 1936.



Rev. Joseph Costa, C.P.S.
3rd Pastor [1936 - 1942]

Rev. Joseph Costa became the third Pastor of Holy Family Church. It was during his pastorate that the Holy Family Rectory was enlarged to its present size³. He implemented parochial life through the updating of existing facilities and the growth of parish societies. Father Costa left in 1942 to join the United States Army Chaplain Corps with the rank of Major.

During the ensuing 19 years Holy Family parishioners were blessed with the spiritual leadership of the Rev. Erminio Lona, who was called a "Saintly Priest" by the late Richard Cardinal Cushing. His quiet, persuasive and able way transmitted a spirit of love and brotherhood between the clergy and the people. Through his determined efforts, his strong faith in his flock and total dedication of his curates, he realized his dream of the **new upper church which was completed in 1955**. The late Rev. Monsignor Myles J. McSwiney, Pastor of St. Joseph's Church and head of the Lynn Deanery, officiated



Rev. Erminio Lona, C.P.S.
4th Pastor [1942 - 1960]

³ According to the parish website, at: <http://holyfamilychurchlynn.net> [2016].

at the first Mass in the new church on Sunday, August 14, 1955. Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, dedicated the \$250,000.00 edifice on September 15, 1955.

From 1953 to 1960 the Holy Family Parish held kindergarten classes for four year olds. It was first staffed by Mrs. Leona Saracen and Mrs. Frances Plourde; later by the Sisters of Mercy from Windham, New Hampshire. The first classes were held in the Social Hall, which became too small. Then the classes were held in the two-family house adjacent to the church. At this time also the Brownies and Girl Scouts were very active under the leadership of Mrs. Frances Plourde, Mrs. Minnie Drinkwater, Mrs. Phyllis Tretola and Miss Concetta Rando.

III. New Pastors; towards the Golden Jubilee [1960 – 1972]

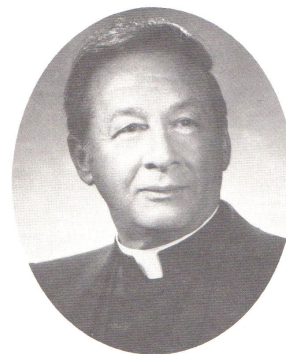


Rev. Joseph Amodio, C.S.S.
5th Pastor [1960 - 1967]

In 1960, Father Lona, then 81 years old, stepped down as Pastor to remain in the Parish as Pastor Emeritus. He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Amodio, a native of Italy. In seven years Father Amodio liquidated the parish debt and renovated the exterior and interior of the rectory. He also organized the C.C.D. Program. Before leaving Holy Family Parish he discussed the possibility of a Parish Activity Center with his successor, Rev. Joseph Massaro, who became Pastor in 1967.

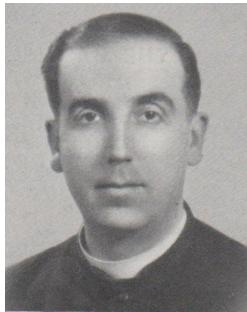
Father Massaro, like his predecessors, took up the challenge of leadership in a period of drastic Ecumenical changes. After five years of brilliant pastoral management and direction, he attained several major goals including the completion of the Parish Activity Center. The interior of the church was renovated according to the requirements of the new liturgy. It was also under Father Massaro that the Lay Advisory Board was instituted.

The Activity Center was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, April 12, 1972 by Humberto Cardinal Medeiros following a Concelebrated Mass. In the evening a banquet was held in observance of the Golden Jubilee of Holy Family Parish.



Rev. Joseph Massaro, C.S.S.
6th Pastor [1967 - 1973]

IV. The Early Golden Years [1972 – 1979]



Rev. Rinaldo Ribezzi, C.S.S.
7th Pastor [1973 - 1976]

During the next ten years, many new programs were initiated. Rev. Rinaldo A. Ribezzi, C.S.S., the Pastor from 1973-1976, focused his attention on the parish Liturgical and CCD Programs. He was Chairman of the Liturgical Committee of the Salem Vicariate. The Cursillo movement also flourished under the direction of Rev. Anthony Nuccio. Ceramic classes were offered for those interested and are still very active.

It was during Rev. Richard Ahern's term as Pastor, 1976-1979, that a Scripture Course taught once a week by Miss Nina Lauzon, was introduced as an Adult Education Program. This is an on-going program held once a week at Holy Family.

A Prayer Petition Service in honor of Blessed Gaspar Bertoni, founder of the Stigmatine Fathers, was started in 1978. It is conducted every Wednesday after the morning Mass.



Rev. Richard Ahern, CSS
8th Pastor [1976 – 1979]

For the first time in Holy Family's history, Special Ministers of the Eucharist were solemnly installed on Sunday, May 20, 1979 by the Episcopal Vicar, Rev. John McCormack.

Our Senior Choir was rejuvenated when Mrs. Trudy Marshall was hired to direct it in 1977.

The 20/20 Club was begun with a view to increase parish income. It has been very successful.

For the youth, Cub Scouts, Brownies and basketball teams were organized and are still active.

Father Ahern culminated his pastorage here when he celebrated his Silver Jubilee Ordination on June 2, 1979.

V. New Pastor, Father Grady [1979 – 1991]

Rev. Charles Grady, C.S.S.
9th Pastor [1979 - 1991]

When Rev. Charles J. Grady, C.S.S., was appointed Pastor of Holy Family Parish in 1979, he found one less Associate Pastor.

His first goal was to hire a coordinator for the CCD Program. The services of Sister Jane Hogan, a member of the Franciscan Community of Lynn, were obtained. Under her leadership the parish has an excellent program.

Rev. James G. Shea, Associate Pastor, takes an active role in the entire program. Another role in which Father Shea excels is in instructing and training of the Altar Boys, who are a credit to the Parish. Eight additional Eucharistic Ministers have been instructed and installed by Father Grady.

With the splendid cooperation and generosity of the parishioners, Father Grady was able to pay the complete assessment of the Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal for two consecutive years, and a portion of the arrears, with the result that Cardinal Medeiros cut the amount of the arrears in half, with a savings of \$13,293.20 to Holy Family Parish.

Monies have been realized through ongoing fundraising projects.

1. Weekly Beano —- which due to the initiative and foresight of Mr. David Cyr, former President of the Parish Advisory Council, and with the full cooperation of the Beano Staff, finally began to realize greater profits, all of which Father Grady used to maintain and embellish the church, grounds and rectory.

2. The 20/20 Club, under the leadership of Josephine and Concetta Rando, has been very successful. The income has been used for repairs, improvements, and renovation to the rectory, church and lower hall.



Rev. James Shea, C.S.S.
Associate Pastor to Fr.
Grady and Fr. Fellin

The Parish Advisory Council, with its committees on Properties. Social Activities, Finance, Youth and Liturgy, meets every month and make a great contribution to the parish by their enthusiastic participation in all its affairs.

Carrying on a family tradition, Miss Dorothy Poltrino, in her quiet, efficient way cares for all the church linens and acts as a "one person altar guild".

Both the pastor and his associate visit Union and Lynn Hospitals every week, and Father Turri, of our Mission Church, St. Francis of Assisi, visits all patients from St. Francis and Holy Family daily — so our sick are well cared for.

Our responsibility is to serve the Italian people according to their needs. The priests assigned here speak Italian whenever the occasion calls for it.

During Father Grady's tenure, Holy Family Parish celebrated its 60th anniversary, in 1982.

Fr. Grady left Holy Family Parish in 1991, after 12.5 years as Pastor.

VI. New and last Stigmatine Pastor, Father Fellin [1991 – 1996]



Rev. Joseph Fellin, C.S.S.
10th Pastor [1991 - 1996]

Father Grady was replaced by Rev. Joseph Fellin, who became our pastor at 70 years young.

Father Fellin helped put this parish on a solid base financially. The success of Bingo, the 20/20 club and the Annual Festa helped with parish support. He set out to make many changes in the rectory, church and activity center. He was instrumental in helping us put in the beautiful stained glass doors in the front of the church.

The activity center was renovated and the heating system was converted to a more efficient system. These are some of the major changes made by Fr. Fellin to update the parish.

We are grateful for his six years of service in his ministry to Holy Family Parish. Fr. Fellin celebrated his **50th Anniversary to the Priesthood** and the **75th Anniversary of Holy Family Church in 1996**. Fr. Fellin and Fr. Shea were the last priests of the Stigmatine Order to Serve Holy Family Parish.

Father Fellin retired to St. Joseph Hall in 1996.

VII . After the Stigmatine Era [1996 - present]

After Father Fellin's retirement, **Father Gregory Mercurio** was appointed administrator of Holy Family Parish by Cardinal Law. His Eminence knew that Father Gregory's Italian roots and heritage would make him an excellent candidate to serve this Italian Community.

It was the first time in Holy Family Church's 75 year history, that the Stigmatine Fathers did not staff the parish with parish priests.

Fr. Gregory arrived in Lynn with his dog Nubbs, who became a well loved mascot of the parish. Fr. Gregory came to Holy Family with experience as a Pastor, Parish Priest, Chaplain and teacher.



Rev. Gregory Mercurio
11th Pastor [1996 - present]

During his first years here, he focused his attention on parish ministries. He implemented liturgies for children, sustained the religious education program and established a youth committee. His goal was to encourage young families to become more involved in their parish through participation in Mass, religious instruction and family friendly parish social activities.

In 1999, Fr. Gregory was officially named Pastor of Holy Family. Without any additional parish priests, he continued building up parish ministries by empowering lay people to participate more fully on committees and in ministry as volunteers.

Because of Fr. Gregory's interest in gardening, more concentration was giving to landscaping the church grounds by the planting of many prolific flowering plants, shrubs and ornamental trees as well as a memorial statue of St. Joseph in front of the church, a brick structures for plants and new signage to border the newly surfaced parking lot.

Holy Family remains open, after attempt of closing (2004)

In 2004, the parish learned the shocking news that Holy Family Parish was to be among the parishes likely to close as part of the reconfiguration of the Archdiocese and need for it's consolidation. While discussions were being held at the chancery, devastated parishioners were desperate to save their beloved parish from the bleak gate that seemed to be eminent. With the same dedication and commitment to their faith and church as displayed by their founders, the parishioners in a test of faith, turned to prayer. Under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Gregory, a portable chapel was

constructed in the parking lot of the church. Parishioners took turns keeping a constant 24/7 vigil of prayer. This demonstration of a peaceful protest and a testament to the power of prayer, attracted people from all over the area, including media and newspaper coverage. This crisis reinforced a strong bond between parishioners, families, old friends and new. In the midst of despair, the people of Holy Family remained positive and hopeful. They concluded their week long vigil with a Mass outside at the cornerstone of the church building.

After deliberations at the Chancery, a parking lot full of parishioners and local media anxiously awaiting the decision of what seemed to be impending doom. Against all odds, everyone witnessed the joyous sound of the church bells tolling the announcement that Holy Family would remain open!

Recognizing the need for increased revenue, Fr. Gregory secured permission to lease the parish activity center to a charter school. From 2005- 2012, KIPP Academy became tenants of Holy Family Church. Sound financial planning resulted in the parish remaining solvent during a difficult economic crisis and recession.

Great celebrations (2007 and 2012)

In 2007, we were honored to have **Cardinal Sean O'Malley celebrate the 85th Anniversary of Holy Family** with a Mass of Thanksgiving. Under Fr. Gregory's direction, the interior of the church was refurbished and an elevator lift was installed to make the church assessable for our handicapped and elder parishioners to attend Mass. An air conditioning system was installed in the church and to make the rectory more energy efficient, new windows and doors were put in and an outdated kitchen remodeled.

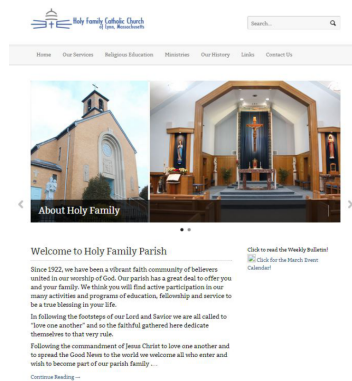
In 2012, the parishioners of Holy Family celebrated 90 years of a people of faith, with many liturgical, sacramental & social activities celebrated throughout the year. A liturgy celebrated by our regional bishop, The Most Reverend Peter J. Uglietto and a dinner dance was the highlight of the yearlong festivities.

The preceding paragraphs are the legacy of Holy Family Parish. Many priests, pastors and parishioners have contributed to the spiritual and financial success of Holy Family Parish during the past 90 years. Italian families of four and five generations and people of many diverse nationalities have left a little part of themselves as at Holy Family Parish during the past ninety years. Holy Family has been blessed with wonderful dedicated staff, custodians, assistants and countless volunteers who have given so much to the pastoral life of the parish. To all who are no longer with us and to those who still give freely of their time we own a great debt of gratitude. A continuing commitment to serve and spirituality of the priests and parishioners of Holy Family will

measure our future. We pray that Holy Family Parish will always be a beacon of the Catholic Faith in the city of Lynn. Let us pray that all of our members will continue to exemplify the way of the Lord and show the world the Lord's call to "Love one another".

Presently (2016)

The Holy Family continues being a flourishing parish, under the pastorage of Father Gregory Mercuro. The parish holds a beautiful website, at:



<http://holyfamilychurchlynn.net/>

Follow some pictures, taken by the authors on July, 2014 (unless for different information on caption):







The interior of the Church (picture from the parish website)

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† † †
†

Sources:

- **An Initial Chronicle of the U.S.A. Stigmatine Province of the Holy Spouses** – by Rev. Joseph Henchey, C.S.S., Superior Provincial – 1986 ("Typed Book")
- **Website of Holy Family Catholic Church in Lynn, MA:** <http://holyfamilylynn.net>

PART THREE**Saint Francis Church in Lynn, MA**

Saint Francis Church
Lynn, MA
Founder:
Father Joseph Nardone
1925



The new Church, dedicated on Saturday, August 4, 1956

*Fr. Nardone made it known to **Fr. Paul Zozzi, Pastor of Holy Family**, that the Italian-Americans of West Lynn had long desired a church of their own. After a while, Fr. Zozzi received permission from Cardinal O'Connell to open a church in West Lynn. St. Francis was to be a mission church of Holy Family.*

I. The Beginnings [1925 – 1930]



Rev. Paul Sozzi, C.P.S.
1st Pastor
[1922 - 1929]

Because there was such an increase of Italian families who had also migrated to West Lynn, known as the Brickyard section of Lynn, a mission church and an extension of Holy Family was established in 1925, several years prior to the great Depression.

The man chiefly responsible for starting the church was Fr. Joseph Nardone, CSS. Fr. Nardone made it known to **Fr. Paul Zozzi, Pastor of Holy Family**, that the Italian-Americans of West Lynn had long desired a church of their own. After a while, Fr. Zozzi received permission from Cardinal O'Connell to open a church in West Lynn. St. Francis was to be a mission church of Holy Family.

On January 10, 1925, a brick Quonset at 106-108 Blossom St. was bought for \$13,500 from Aaron Philips. The building was formerly a mattress factory, and for a period it had even served as premises for a chicken store.

Fr. Nardone became the first rector of St. Francis and, with characteristic enthusiasm and energy, he and his parishioners worked diligently to open the church. So that, when Easter came in April of 1925, St. Francis of Assisi was ready for Easter services. And October 19, 1925 marked the first Confirmation, which ceremonies were administered by Bishop John Peterson.

A word should be said regarding the person of Fr. Nardone. His life was one of complete sacrifice, humility and devotion, reflection the life of the church's patron saint, Francis of Assisi. It was said that, without Fr. Nardone, the establishing of St. Francis might have been delayed for many years.



Rev. Joseph Nardone, CPS
Founder & 1st Rector
[1925-1928]

On November 13, 1928 **Father Emilio Baratella** succeeded Father Nardone, becoming the **2nd rector** of St. Francis.



Rev. Emilio Baratella, CPS
2nd Rector [1928-1929]



Rev. Louis Fontana, C.P.S.
2nd Pastor [1929 - 1936]

On October 18, 1929 **Father Louis Fontana** succeeded Father Paul Zozzi as **pastor**.

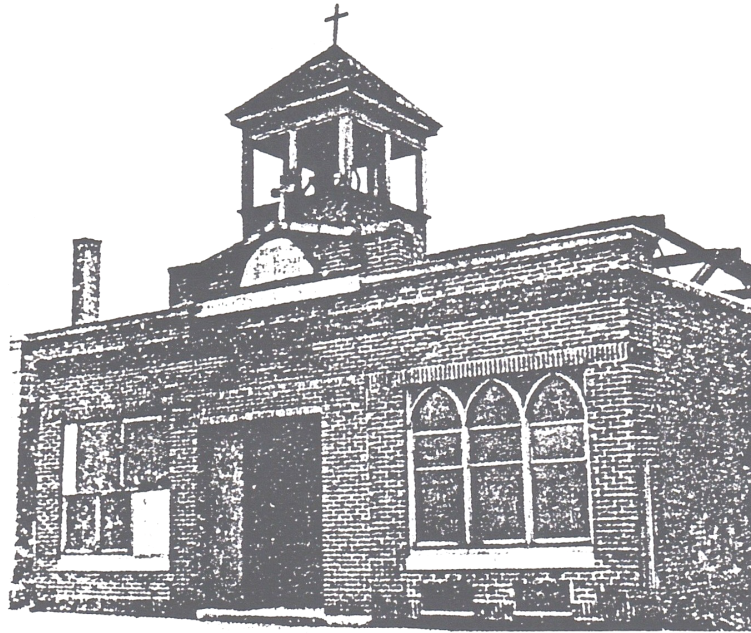
On October, 1929 **Father Umberto Zampieri** succeeded Father Emilio Baratella, becoming the **3rd rector** of St. Francis.



Rev. Umberto Zampieri, C.P.S.
3rd Rector [1929-1931]
5th Rector [1933-1936]

The machinery of organization was set into motion with the forming of various church groups. It took about five years to organize the parish. Despite its humble beginnings, the church began to grow, a growth drawing life from the pioneering spirit and dedication of its parishioners.

On March 9, 1930, adversity struck St. Francis. This date marks the first fire at the church, with damages totaling about \$3,000. Ironically, the fire, instead of retarding the growth of the church, sparked the beginning of many years of activity and progress. After 1930, new church groups came into existence, completing the organization of the church.



The old St. Francis Church

II. Continuously growing; the built of a new Church [1931 – 1956]

On September, 1931 - **Father Dante Turri** succeeded Father Umberto Zampieri, becoming the **4th rector** of St. Francis.



Rev. Dante Turri, CPS
4th Rector [1931-1933]

On April, 1933 - **Father Umberto Zampieri** returned to St. Francis and became its **5th rector**, replacing Father Dante Turri.

On June 7, 1933 - Bishop Francis Spellman administered confirmation to the children.

On February, 1935 - the First Jr. Aspirant Group was formed at St. Francis.

On May 27, 1935 - Bishop Francis Spellman returned to administer confirmation to the children.

On February, 1936 - the First Scout group, Troop 14, formed at St. Francis.

On March, 1936 - St. Mary's Sodality was formed at St. Francis.



Rev. Joseph Costa, C.P.S.
3rd Pastor [1936 - 1942]

On September 9, 1936 - **Fr. Joseph Costa** succeeded Fr. Louis Fontana as **pastor**.

On February 5, 1937 - the Annual St. Francis dance was held at Pythian Castle.

On April 9, 1937 - Bishop Francis Spellman administered confirmation to the children.

On March, 1938 – St. Francis Forum was organized.

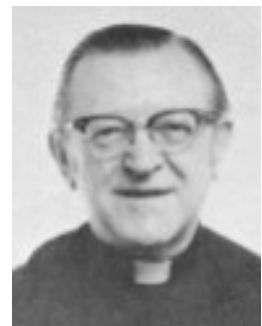
On April 13, 1939 – Bishop Francis Spellman administered confirmation to the children.

On April 26, 1940 – there was held the Annual Parish Reunion.

On September, 1940 – **Fr. Angelo DaPrai** succeeded Fr. Umberto Zampieri and became the **6th rector**.

On April 25, 1941 – there was held the Annual Parish Reunion at Pythian Castle.

On June 8, 1941 – Archbishop Richard J. Cushing administered the sacrament of confirmation to children.



Rev. Angelo DaPrai, C.P.S.
6th Rector [1936 - 1952]



Rev. Erminio Lona, C.P.S.
4th Pastor [1941 - 1960]

On September, 1941, **Fr. Erminio Lona** succeeded Fr. Joseph Costa as **pastor**.

On May 15, 1942 – there was held the Annual Parish Reunion at Pythian Castle.

On July 7, 1942 – the property at 66 Wheeler and Blossom Street (Hall) was purchased.

On March 1, 1943 – the land at City of Lynn was purchased.

On August, 1943 – **Fr. Paul Zanini** arrived to assist **Fr. Angelo DaPrai**.⁴

On May 3, 1945 – Archbishop Richard J. Cushing administered the sacrament of confirmation to children.

On October 18, 1945 – a property was purchased from Natala Mangifesta (Rectory).

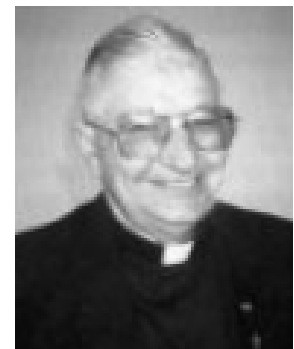


Rev. Paul Zanini, CPS
Assistant [1943-1947]

On June, 1947 – **Fr. Carlo Bevilacqua** arrived to assist Fr. Angelo DaPrai.

On May, 1949 – Bishop John J. Wright administered confirmation to children.

On August 9, 1949 – Bellome deeded lot to church.



Rev. Carlo Bevilacqua, CPS
Assistant [1947-1950]

⁴ There was not found precise information about the year Fr. Paul Zanini finished this term as assistant of Fr. DaPrai. The year 1947 is supposed, as he could have been replaced by Fr. Carlo Bevilacqua.

On August, 1950 - **Fr. Dante Turri**, former rector [1931-1933] arrived to replace Fr. Carlo Bevilacqua.⁵

On January 9, 1952 – once again, adversity struck St. Francis, with a boiler explosion in Hall.

On September, 1952 – **Fr. Carmen Russo** succeeded Fr. Angelo DaPrai, becoming the 7th rector.⁶

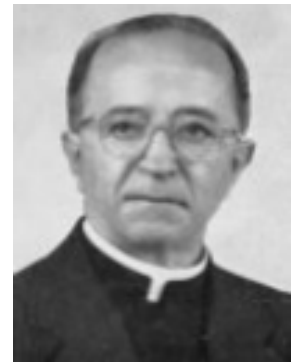
On October, 1952 – **Fr. Remy Zadra** arrived to assist Fr. Carmen Russo.



Rev. Dante Turri, CPS
Assistant [1950-1952]



Rev. Carmen Russo, CPS
7th Rector [1952- -]



Rev. Remy Zadra, CPS
Assistant [1952-1953]

On November, 1952 – the roofs of church and rectory were remodeled.

On January, 1953 – **Fr. Rinaldo Ribezzi** began the census of the parish.

On March 8, 1953 – **Fr. Dario Wegher** preached the Italian mission.

On March 15, 1953 – **Fr. Gilbert Fini** preached the Italian mission.

On May 10, 1953 – parish children made First Communion.

On May 26, 1953 – Bishop Eric McKenzie administered confirmation to children.

On June 27, 1953 – Jr. Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality had picnic at Dracut, Massachusetts.

⁵ There was not found precise information about the year Fr. Dante Turri finished this term as assistant of Fr. DaPrai. The year 1952 is supposed, as he could have been replaced by Fr. Remy Zadra.

⁶ There was not found precise information about the year Fr. Carmen Russo finished his term as rector. It is supposed to have been before the mortgage burning commemoration in 1969, as in that occasion his name was in the guest list (according to Appendix 6.7).

On June 28, 1953 – Blessed Virgin Mary and Jr. Blessed Virgin Mary hold their Annual Communion Breakfast.

On July 24, 1953 – St. Francis held Annual Celebration of St. Anthony, St. Rocco and St. Cabrini.

On August 2, 1953 – Jr. Holy Name and Jr. Blessed Virgin Mary had outgoing building fund at Hotel Edison.

On September, 1953 – **Fr. Ettore Canzano** succeeded Fr. Remy Zadra.

On September 23, 1953 – St. Francis purchased land from City of Lynn.

On September 26, 1953 – the parish held its first annual banquet at Lynn Classical High School.



Rev. Ettore Canzano, CPS
Assistant [1953-1954]

On September, 1953 – **Fr. Rocco Leotilo** was temporarily assigned at St. Francis.

On February, 1954 – Jr. Holy Name basketball team wins Y.M.C.A. basketball tournament.

On March, 1954 – in honor of the Marian year, a general Parish Communion Sunday was observed, followed by a Communion Breakfast. **Fr. Louis Bonan**, C.P.S., was guest speaker.



Rev. Rocco Leotilo, CPS
Temporary Assistant [1953]

On May 9, 1954 – forty-three children received their First Communion.

On June 6, 1954 – new officers of the Holy Name Society were installed.

On July 30, 1954 – St. Francis held Annual Celebration of St. Anthony, St. Rocco and St. Cabrini.

On August 6, 1954 – **Fr. Guido Mespilli** succeeded Fr. Ettore Canzano.



Rev. Guido Mespilli, CPS
Assistant [1954-1955]

On August 8, 1954 – the Holy Name Society held picnic at Jackson Park.

On September 8, 1954 – the Blessed Virgin Society attended a Day of Recollection at Waltham, MA.

On September 8, 1954 - once again, adversity struck St. Francis, with a fire that destroyed the church. Damage was estimated at \$21,000.

On January 4, 1955 – plans for the building of a new St. Francis Church got underway.

On January 11, 1955 – there was formed a new Society for young married women, known as the St. Francis Sodality.

On March 30, 1955 – definite arrangements for church building were started.

On April 26, 1955 – St. Francis Holy Name bowling team awarded first prize in Holy Name Bowling League.

On May 11, 1955 – Bishop Eric McKenzie administered confirmation to children.

On May 22, 1955 – 150 children took part in the May procession and received Holy Communion.

On June 19, 1955 – Masses started being celebrated at the Waldorf Theatre, since the church buildings were being demolished.

On June 20, 1955 – the Italian-American Citizen's Club offered hall for our use.

On June 25, 1955 – there was held a parish banquet at Lynn Armory.

On July 1, 1955 – Italian-American War Veterans Post 7 offered their hall for our use.

On July 12, 1955 – plans for the new church were approved.

On August 28, 1955 – the Holy Name Society held annual picnic at Jackson Park.

On September, 1955 – **Fr. Francis Keefe** succeeded Fr. Mespilli.⁷



Rev. Francis Keefe, CPS
Assistant [1954 - -]

⁷ There was not found precise information about the year Fr. Francis Keefe finished this term as assistant at St. Francis, but certainly it was no later than 1960, when he started as teacher and prefect of the high school at Elm Bank in Wellesley, MA. He was ordained a Stigmatine Priest in Rome on May 8, 1955, and served at St. Francis in Lynn and Feeding Hills from 1955 to 1960. Unfortunately we could not find a portrait of him of that time.

On October 26, 1955 – bids for new church were opened.

On October 28, 1955 – bid for new church was awarded to Noddle Construction Co. of Boston for the sum of \$148,506.00.

On November 6, 1955 – there was held the official breaking of ground ceremonies. Pastor Fr. Erminio Lona broke ground, with mayor and other officials in attendance.

On January 19, 1956 – parishioners put on successful minstrel show at City Hall Auditorium.

On March 18, 1956 – Societies held Communion Breakfast at Hawthorne Restaurant.

On May 2, 1956 – St. Francis Holy Name Bowling Team won trophy for first prize in Lynn Holy Name Bowling League.

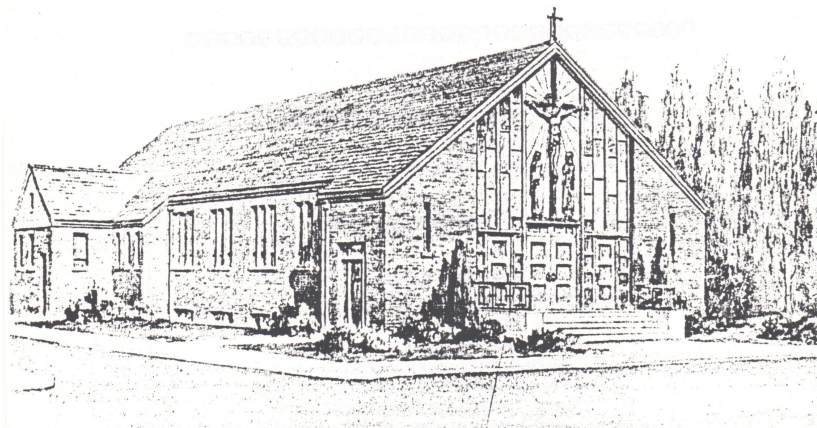
On May 20, 1956 – Mass was celebrated in the basement of the Church.

On June 18, 1956 – St. Francis Bowling team awarded fourth place trophy in the Archdiocese of Boston Holy Name tournament, on which 167 teams participated.

III. The Dedication of the new Church [1956]

On August 3, 1956 – a pre-dedication Ball was held at Lynn Armory.

On August 4, 1956 – Archbishop Cushing blessed cornerstone, offered Mass and delivered sermon. On evening, dedication banquet was held at Lynn Armory.



The new Church, dedicated on August 4, 1956 by Archbishop Cushing.

The Dedication booklet is partially reproduced here on **Appendix 6.6.**

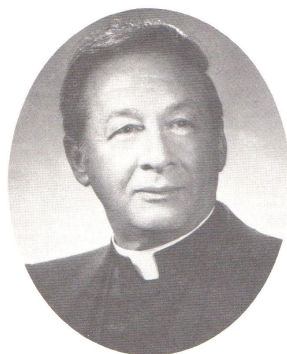
IV. Towards the Golden Jubilee [1954 – 1975]



Rev. Joseph Amodio, C.S.S.
5th Pastor [1960 - 1967]

The following years were significant years, as St. Francis strove to continue to be a relevant parish church in spite of the many changes and new problems it came to encounter.

On July, 1966 - the parishioners were shocked to learn that there were **plans to close St. Francis Church**. Immediately, they formed a committee and a letter-writing campaign got underway. Special letters were sent to Cardinal Cushing in Boston and the Apostolic Delegate in Washington D.C.. Some feel that the Apostolic Delegate was instrumental in preventing the closing of the church.



Rev. Joseph Massaro, C.S.S.
6th Pastor [1967 - 1973]

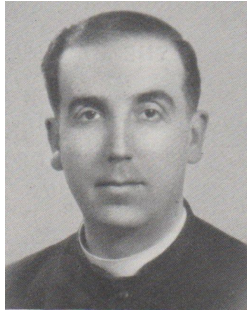
On May, 1969, a banquet was held at St. Michael's Hall to celebrate the "**burning of the mortgage**", since the debt connected with building the new church had been eradicated. The booklet for this event is reproduced partially in **Appendix 6.7**.

On Summer, 1970 - Ironically, a little more than a year later, the rector, Fr. Guido Mespilli learned from his superiors that **the Stigmatines were strongly considering the closing of St. Francis because of a shortage of priests**. Once again the parishioners rallied to try and save their church. During that summer, Fr. Angelo DaPrai happened to be at St. Francis recuperating from a heart attack. He told the Stigmatine superiors that he was willing to remain alone at St. Francis if it would keep the church he had faithfully served years before.

By end of August, 1970 - the pastor, Fr. Joseph Massaro, announced that **St. Francis would be definitely open**.

On April 18, 1972 – hundreds of people crowded into the church to attend the concelebrated funeral Mass for Pasquale "Pat" Caggiano, one of the many people who fought to save St. Francis in 1966 and again in 1970. "Pat" Caggiano, an usher and a communicant of the church for more that forty years, had been elected Mayor of the City of Lynn on January, 1972, becoming the first Italo-American to achieve this high honor in Lynn. Tragically, he was to die in office in April of that year.

Later on April, 1972 – **our Mother Church, Holy Family, celebrated golden jubilee.** Many from St. Francis had served on the Jubilee Committee and Father DaPrai and the St. Francis Choir provided the beautiful singing for the concelebrated Mass. The principal celebrant was Archbishop Humberto Medeiros.



Rev. Rinaldo Ribezzi, C.S.S.
7th Pastor [1973 - 1976]

On January 27, 1973 – Archbishop Humberto Medeiros celebrated Mass and greeted parishioners at St. Francis on the occasion of the Feast of the Holy Espousals, the patronal feast of the Stigmatine Congregation.

On February, 1973 - it was announced that Archbishop Medeiros was to become a Cardinal.

Still on February, 1973 – a dispute with the Lynn YMCA over parking rights in the Blossom St. and Wheeler St. lots was resolved.

This dispute started early in 1973; then the Lynn Redevelopment Authority (LRA) at one of its meetings took up the dispute and heard both parties state their side of the issue. Father DaPrai told the LRA that originally the YMCA had promised St. Francis “unrestricted parking”. Representatives of YMCA said they had never stated this. Weeks later, the YMCA assured Fr. DaPrai that the Church could use the Wheeler Street lot for any religious occasions and that the church could have unrestricted parking in the Blossom Street lot.

On January, 1974 – Cardinal Medeiros gave his consent for the building of a new rectory with the provision that the money be raised before any construction begins.

Shortly thereafter the parking lots dispute described above, the parishioners at St. Francis were informed by Fr. DaPrai and the Parish Council that there was a hope of building a new rectory. The church applied later on in 1973 for permission from the archdiocese to build. Early in 1974, Fr. DaPrai learned that Cardinal Medeiros had given his consent with the provision that all money had so be raised before any construction could begin. And so, once again there is a dream that the parishioners along with Fr. DaPrai are working hard to fulfill.

V. The Golden Jubilee [1975]

On April 26, 1975 – the **Golden Jubilee of St. Francis Church** took place with a concelebrated Mass. Dinner-dance was held at St. Michael's Hall in the evening.

This is an excerpt of 'The history of St. Francis of Assisi Church', by Vito W. Adamo, Jr., parishioner, in the occasion of the Golden Jubilee:

"There were many priests and parishioners who, after laboring for so many years, never got the chance to see the sun gloriously shine down on the new St. Francis that August day in 1956. And there are those souls who have departed since 1956 who will not be with us today, as we celebrate our golden jubilee. To these we owe a great debt. Mr. Anthony Cama paid them a fitting tribute in the dedication poem he wrote in 1956. In reference to St. Francis he said:

You are the struggle of the faithful dead
that knew you when your walls were old and dark;
And many were the prayers they had said
to give you life and be their haloed spark.

How do we pay this debt? By continuing to work in the same spirit as those who labored before us! As in the past, future success will be measured in proportion to the commitment and spirituality of the priests and parishioners of St. Francis Church. There will be new dreams, new endeavors, and new problems. With God's grace and the intercession of our beloved patron saint, Francis, our church will continue to survive and flourish. AD MULTOS ANOS."

The Golden Jubilee booklet is partially reproduced here on **Appendix 6.8**.

VI. Subsequent years [1975 - 1993]

On July 4, 1976 – parishioners of St. Francis attended Sunday Mass and celebrated the Nation's Bicentennial.

On January, 1977 – bids for the construction of new rectory were sent to the Chancery.

On May, 1977 – the contract for new rectory was signed with Petrucelli Construcion Co. of Lynn.

On June 19, 1977 – there were the ground-breaking ceremonies for the new rectory.

On July 1, 1977 – Fr. Dante Turri returned to St. Francis.

On October, 1977 – the Meritorious Service Award was presented to St. Francis by Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce.

On May 28, 1978 – the new rectory was dedicated.

On May 6, 1979 – there was celebrated Fr. Dante Turri's 50th Priestly Golden Jubilee.

On January 31, 1981 – there was celebrated Fr. Angelo DaPrai's 45th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood.

On October 2, 1982 – there was celebrated the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi, our church patron saint.

On October 17, 1982 – there was celebrated the burning of the rectory mortgage.

On October 2, 1983 – there was celebrated Mass in memory of Cardinal Humberto Medeiros.

On March, 1984 – there was celebrated Fr. Louis Zuliani's 55th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood.

On July 21, 1984 – there was celebrated Fr. Anthony Nuccio's Priestly Silver Jubilee.

On October 24, 1984 – there was concelebrated funeral Mass for Fr. Dante Turri.

On April, 1985 – this month marked 60 years of continuous service to St. Francis Church by William Callahan.

On May 18, 1985 – there was celebrated the 60th Anniversary of St. Francis Church.

VII. Closing [1993]

No further records were found after 1985, unless that St. Francis was closed on January 1, 1993.

This record, from the Archdiocese of Boston, can be found on **Appendix 6.9**.

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† † †
†

Sources:

- **An Initial Chronicle of the U.S.A. Stigmatine Province of the Holy Spouses** – by Rev. Joseph Henchey, C.S.S., Superior Provincial – 1986 (“Typed Book”)
- **Website of The Archdiocese of Boston:**
<http://www.bostoncatholic.org>

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Appendix 6.1: The Holy Name Parade in Boston [1947]

100,000 Parade In Holy Name Line

BOSTON (AP)—Led by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, more than 100,000 Catholic men marched here yesterday before a crowd which Police Commissioner Thomas F. Sullivan estimated at 3,500,000.

The parade, biggest civilian line in the history of the city, began at 10.30 AM, and the last weary marcher crossed the finish line more than eight hours later, just a few minutes before 7 PM.

The parade closed the fourth annual convention of the Holy Name Society, a 700-year-old organization of lay members of the Roman Catholic Church founded to revere the name of God.

Archbishop Cushing marched over the two-mile route twice during the day, and made part of a third trip. The remainder of the time he spent on a reviewing stand, flanked by U.S. Senators Leverett Saltonstall and Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., Governor Robert F. Bradford and Boston's temporary mayor, John B. Hynes.

The parade had 100 bands, 75 floats depicting events in the life of the society and in the history of the Catholic Church, a delegation of 1500 policemen, 800 firemen and 800 postal employees from New York, and hundreds of other delegations from other cities and the Northeast States.

**Appendix 6.2: Silver Jubilee of the Sacred Heart Church in Waltham
[1947]**



**Silver Jubilee
Celebration
of
Sacred Heart Church
Waltham, Massachusetts**

Week of November 23, 1947

Dedication

The parish of the Sacred Heart Church was started by Fr. Raymond Dalla Porta and an assistant Fr. William Ludessi in a small building on River and Jackson Streets in 1922. After two years of zealous and hard labor, the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was built.

We are proud of our little brick church – little it is, but it acts as the center of a parish ever growing in numbers and in the grace and blessings of our Lord.

This week, my dear Parishioners, we pause to celebrate the Silver Jubilee – proud of the past – confident in our future ever going forward this parish of Our little brick Church.

It is a custom to have a “Dedication” in Anniversary Programs. On this occasion we humbly and gratefully dedicate the Program to You, Parishioners of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Your priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

Rev. Louis Zuliani, Pastor

Rev. Adolph Ferrari, I Assistant

Rev. Joseph Amodio, II Assistant

HISTORY OF THE PARISH

By Rev. Louis J. Zuliani, C.P.S., Pastor

Twenty-five years ago litany Italian people were employed at the Boston Manufacturing Company in Waltham who had frequent dealings with Mr. James J. Adams, Agent. He was a man of great foresight, and in his relations with them, realized how very much they desired and actually needed a church of their own wherein they could hear and understand the word of God and have their priest to instruct and guide them.

Mr. Adams discussed this necessity with Miss Ellen Masterson, factory nurse and secretary of the Gilbrae Aid Association, and they decided to seek the assistance of an Italian priest of their acquaintance, Father Anthony Dalla Porta. At that time he was Ordinary Visitor of the Stigmatine Fathers in America and was stationed at Springfield, Mass. He spoke of the matter to Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, who was happy to entrust the care of these Italian people to the Stigmatine Fathers.

Two Stigmatine priests, Father Raymond Dalla Porta as Pastor, and Father William Ludessi as his assistant, were assigned the task of ministering to these people. Their first home was one small room which was the office, sacristy and general living quarters, from which the first efforts were centered. They went out to care for their people, visiting, instructing and aiding them. To that room the Italian people came seeking advice and assistance with their various problems. Religious services were held temporarily in an unused Lutheran Church.

During this time the priests were enabled, through the generosity of the parishioners, to purchase a suitable site on which to erect a church. After two years of tireless activity, the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was completed and formally dedicated on Christmas Day, 1924. The first Mass was celebrated therein amidst an admirable and joyful gathering to whose faith the church was, and remains still, a monument, and upon whom his first Mass was a Divine Benediction.

Since that day, blessings, material and spiritual, have never been lacking. A few years later the rectory was built, and in these twenty-five years the spiritual life of the parish has developed beyond the fondest hopes of those first zealous young priests. .

It is impossible to single out any one person deserving of a major share of credit for the improvements and the success of the parish. Each has labored according to his means. Many have been called to their reward, others have taken residence elsewhere. Those who remain realize the accomplishments of these years and cannot fail to continue this glorious tradition. The priests will daily ascend the altar which has been erected, and will invoke upon you and your homes the blessings which God reserves for those who labor for the honor and glory of His House.

Program of Celebration

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Banquet

Monday Evening, November 24, 1947, at seven o'clock

Hovey Memorial Institute

Waltham

- I. Dinner
- II. Speakers
- III. Entertainment

Toastmaster: Anthony Julian, Esq.

Principal Speaker: Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, D.D., L.L.D.

INVITED GUESTS

Mayor John F. Devane
Very Rev. Paul V. Daly, C.P.S.
(Provincial of the Stigmatine Fathers)
Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. O'Connell
Rev. Florence McCarty
Rev. Rosario Richard
Rev. Percival J. Quill
Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta, C.P.S.
Rev. William J. Ludessi, C.P.S.
Rev. Leo Sella, C.P.S.
Rev. Emil Baretelli, C.P.S.
Rev. Humbert Zampieri, C.P.S.
Rev. Joseph Costa, C.P.S.
Rev. Victor Formolo, C.P.S.
Rev. Dario Wegher, C.P.S.
Rev. Stephen Dalla Via, C.P.S.
Rev. Guido Mespilli, C.P.S.
Very Rev. John B. Zaupa
Mrs. James J. Adams
Miss Ellen Masterson
Mr. Joseph Welch
Mr. Paul Piskel
Mr. Samuel Chameal

Program of Celebration

Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving

Thursday morning, November 27, 1947, at ten o'clock

List of Officers

Celebrant:	The Most Rev. John J. Wright, D.D.
	Auxiliary Bishop of Boston
Assistant Priest:	Rev. Louis J. Zuliani, C.P.S., Pastor
Deacon of the Mass:	Very Rev. Paul V. Daly, C.P.S., Provincial
Subdeacon of Mass:	Rev. Erminio Lona, C.P.S.
Preacher:	Rev. William J. Ludessi, C.P.S.
Master of Cer.:	Rev. Joseph Amodio, C.P.S.
Thurifer:	Rev. Paul Piskel, C.P.S.
Book Bearer :	Guido Mespilli, C.P.S.
Acolytes: 1))
2))
Mitre Bearer) Seminarians from Elm Bank Seminary
Bugia Bearer)
Cross Bearer)
Choir:	Sacred Heart Church Choir
	Elm Bank Seminary Choir



Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Ball

Thursday evening, November 27, 1947, at eight o'clock

Nuttings-on-the Charles

Music by Bartholomew



Solemn Requiem Mass

For the Deceased Members of The Parish

Friday morning, November 28, at eight o'clock



Children's Entertainment

Friday afternoon, November 28, 1947, at two o'clock

Hovey Memorial Institute

Moving Pictures

Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving

Appendix 6.3: Endeavor for the New Church Building [1959]



The Building Fund Campaign



A capital building fund for \$250,000 for the new Sacred Heart Church begins on February 15, 1959 with Benediction in the beloved "tiny" present church. This amount coupled with the funds collected throughout the past 35 years will enable us to erect a new and adequate church.

The campaign will require the support and energies of all the parishioners and friends of the church.

A Kick-off Dinner will be held at Robinhood Ten Acres for all workers and solicitors on February 17, 1959. The campaign will end on March 31, 1959.



Ways You Can Contribute



All parishioners must give a minimum of \$300 to insure the success of the drive.

Memorial offerings are provided for your loved ones, living or deceased. An Attractive plaque will mark each memorial for eternity. An honor roll roster will list all generous donors.

You may make an outright contribution or you can consider a somewhat larger contribution pledged over a period of 30 months. Up to 30 percent of your gift can be deducted for income tax purposes.

All memorial gifts must be approved by the Memorial Committee pending availability of each item.

Pledge cards and further information can be obtained at:

Sacred Heart Building Headquarters
311 River Street, Waltham, Massachusetts
TWinbrook 9-8765



The New Church...

The fulfillment of a dream of all the Italian people in this community is near at hand – the erection of a new Sacred Heart Church. It has been only a few short weeks that the chancery office of the Archdiocese of Boston granted permission to our beloved Pastor, Father Stephen Dalla Via, to engage an architect to draw plans for a new church.

Already the architect is near completion of the plans which in turn will be submitted to the chancery office for approval. The plans are not yet available. However, with astuteness and foresight, Father Dalla Via has left no stone unturned to accommodate his parishioners.

His idea of a larger church is not unusual, but what is so refreshing is the idea of a circular motif with semi-circular arrangement of the pews. He wants full and complete accentuation of the main altar. Two side altars honor the Madonna and All Saints.

Most unique will be special sections or rooms, one for the handicapped (St. Camillus) and a nursery (St. Gerard). The seating capacity will be approximately 900. Various other innovations for church constructions are being considered.

No, Father Dalla Via has left no stone unturned to care for all of his people. You will be proud and joyous for having a hand in building this house of God, knowing that all the Italian people of the community will be credited with their greatest undertaking.



Reverend Stephen Dalla Via
Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish

A Glorious Future...

The Church, wherein the faithful gather to render God the honor due Him, answers an intimate need of human nature. Man looks for someone like himself; hence he is called a social being. Man in society finds assurance and a continuance of himself. The primary institution in society is the Church; in church men find themselves as God wants them to be. Within the Church, men feel themselves united through the ministry of the priest, to the Supreme Priest from whom flow truth and holiness.

The location where a church is built is not an arbitrary one. Some are erected to sanctify or commemorate various events and mysteries, while others are built where the necessity of the faithful demands them. Our Sacred Heart Church for Italians falls within this category.

The Church brightens the outlook of its parishioners. As they see it rise, beautiful and resplendent before their very eyes, all is happiness as the House of God opens its doors to His sons. Outside the church the parishioners form a crowd, but within its holy doors the crowd becomes a religious entity – a united body, together in the same faith, the same hope, the same love.

All the faithful have an intimate and equal share of life in Church. At the vestibule, the faithful Catholic takes holy water and makes the Sign of the Cross. So, prepared and purified, he enters the Church; sees the baptistry where original sin was washed from his soul; he sees the confessional where he was returned to the grace of God; he sees the altar rail where his heart received First Holy Communion with quivering lips and where, at Confirmation, with the pride of a soldier defending his country against the enemy, he proclaimed himself a soldier of Jesus Christ; he sees the altar before which he professed lasting love and fidelity to the mother of his children. Before the same altar, he hopes to be taken for the final blessing upon his body, before it is returned to the earth from which it spring.

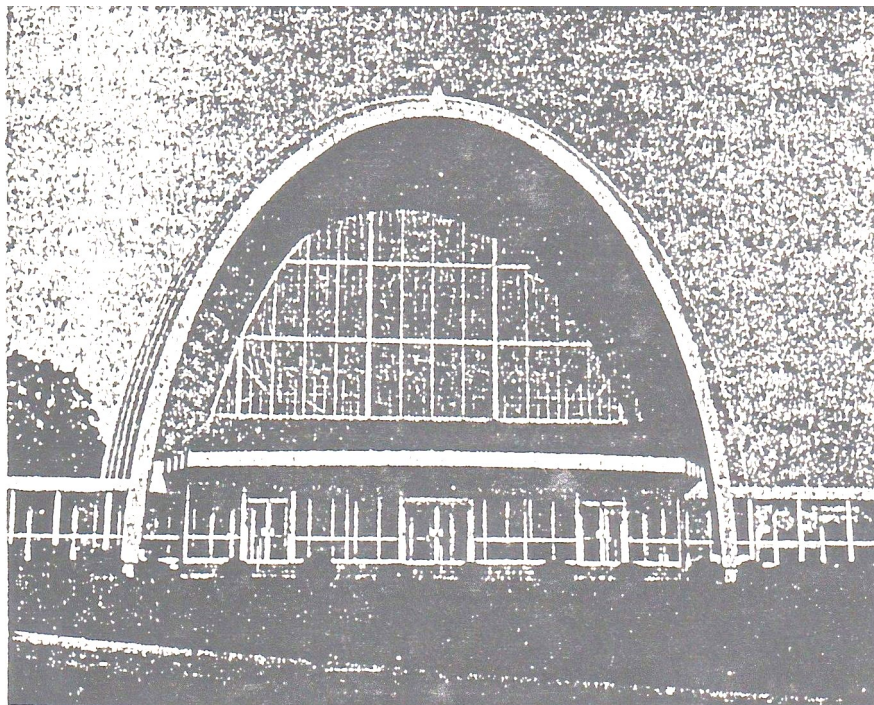
The Church, with its design, its mortar and steel, symbolizes the loving union between souls redeemed and their Divine Redeemer. The fold of which the heavenly Pastor speaks, of which every man is called to be a part is made up of you, the parishioners. It is up to each one of you collectively to build the new Sacred Heart Church, each with his own little spark, to brighten a glorious future for all parishioners.



**Appendix 6.4: Golden Jubilee of the Sacred Heart Church in Waltham
[1972]**

Sacred Heart Church

WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS



1922 – 1972

October 15, 1972

DEDICATION

The past fifty years belong to you
The parishioners of Sacred Heart Church
for it was your piety, your enthusiasm, your cooperation
which inspired the founding of the church we share
which encouraged its growth, spiritually and materially
so that today we may point with pride to our church as one
of the fine achievements of the Italian-American people.
The work was yours: the honor must be yours.
Gratefully, then do we dedicate to you
our present and past parishioners
this GOLDEN JUBILEE BOOK
the record of your accomplishments.

THE PRIESTS
of
SACRED HEART CHURCH



Archbishop received cablegram on Thursday, February 17, 1972.

Joyous occasion Golden Jubilee, Sacred Heart Parish, Waltham, Holy Father invoking upon Pastor, clergy and parishioners, continuing graces in service of Lord, imparts to them and to all present at the ceremony, paternal apostolic blessing requested.

Cardinal Villot

Vatican



ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BRIGHON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135

October, 1972



Reverend Carmen T. Russo, C.S.S.
Sacred Heart Church
311 River Street
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154

Dear Father Russo:

I write to express my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to the parishioners and priests of Sacred Heart Parish on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Parish. For the past fifty years, Sacred Heart Parish has been a source of spiritual comfort and consolation for thousands and thousands of people. In your parish, people have come in contact with Christ by coming into contact with His church.

The dedicated service of many devoted priests has been a source of encouragement to the Catholic people of the Parish, and I am certain that the Faith has flourished through the ministry of these priests.

I know also that the faith has been developed and has been strengthened because of the good example which the members have given to each other, and I am hopeful that the Golden Jubilee celebration will bring about a renewed fervor in the faith of the members of the parish. I regret that I cannot be with you on October 15, but I will certainly plan on making a visit to Sacred Heart Parish in the near future.

Please be assured of a faithful remembrance in my Masses and prayers.

With best personal wishes and a hearty blessing on all the members of the parish, I remain

Devotedly yours in Our Lord,

Humberto S. Medeiros

Archbishop of Boston

February 11, 1972

Rev. Carmen T. Russo, CSS
Sacred Heart Rectory
311 River Street
Waltham, Massachusetts
Dear Father Russo,

The joy of Sacred Heart Parish in Waltham, celebrating her Golden Jubilee, is one in which I most intimately share.

The parish is a community of hearts and spirits, built up on faith and love around its pastors. It is a genuine family in Christ, open to and in communion with the other parish communities of the diocese and of the universal church.

The parish community of Sacred Heart in Waltham has shown the willingness to achieve these ideals and still continues this tradition.

Looking back over the past fifty years, the parish recalls her beginnings, the various events — both happy and sad — that have marked the development of her history, her testimony of faith, her dynamism and her truly Christian life.

The parish also remembers her pastors, beginning with Fr. Raymond Della Porta; Fr. Stephen Dalla Via, who realized the construction of the new and artistic church (which I personally had the opportunity to admire) — up to your present administration. The various pastors and assistants over the years have spent themselves and still today dedicate their best efforts on behalf of the parish community.

On my part, I thank God for the blessings bestowed on the Parish during these fifty years. I also pray for God's grace on each and everyone, and especially on those who have given the most for what has been accomplished. I look forward to a future, ever more productive and inspired, since all life is a moving ahead — especially the life of a Christian and that of the Christian community. All are called to strive ever onward toward the fullness of the life of Christ.

Sincerely, in His Sacred Heart,

Fr. Joseph Cappellina,
Superior General

Provincial House, Stigmatine Fathers
554 Lexington Street, Waltham, Mass. 02154
July 14, 1972

Rev. Carmen T. Russo, C.S.S., Pastor
Sacred Heart Church
311 River Street
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154

Rev. and dear Father Russo:

It is my pleasure to extend sincere congratulations on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Sacred Heart Church.

The people of God at Sacred Heart Church have raised up a beautiful temple of worship with great and generous spirit. Their sacrifices are abundantly evident to the eye. The gleaming monument rising skyward elevates the mind and heart of all who view it and inspires us all to greater efforts in the renewal encouraged by the enlightened faith of our modern circumstances made clear through the documents of the 2nd Vatican Council.

Having renewed the temple of God, we must constantly strive to renew the Church instituted by Christ which is the people of God. Your parishioners, like all of us, will continue to face this challenge. If what they have accomplished in these past fifty years is an example of their willingness to sacrifice and persevere, then we are assured that, like the temple they have erected, we will all be inspired to closer imitation of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the burning love of His Sacred Heart.

At this time, we ask a remembrance and a prayer for all the Stigmatine Fathers who have given of themselves unselfishly for the benefit of the people of Sacred Heart Church for these fifty years. Their example and their efforts have served to keep God and His love alive in the hearts of your people.

With every best wish for all of you on this happy occasion, I am

Sincerely in Christ,
[Rev.] Charles A. Sinesi, C.S.S.
Provincial



FORMER PASTORS

Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta, C.S.S., R.I.P.

Rev. William J. Ludessi, C.S.S., R.I.P.

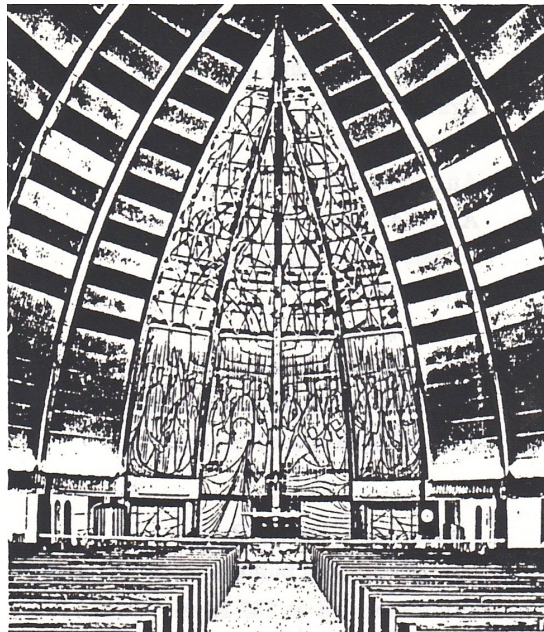
Rev. Leo Sella, C.S.S., R.I.P.

Rev. Emil Baretella, C.S.S., R.I.P.

Rev. Humbert Zampieri, C.S.S.

Rev. Louis Zuliani, C.S.S.

Rev. Stephen Dalla Via, C.S.S.



FORMER ASSISTANTS

Rev. Joseph A. Costa, C.S.S.

Rev. Victor Formolo, C.C.S., R.I.P.

Rev. Dario Wegher, C.S.S.

Rev. Henry Gabos, C.S.S., R.I.P.

Rev. Joseph Amodio, C.S.S.

Rev. Guido Mespilli, C.S.S.

Rev. Adolph A. Ferrari, C.S.S.

Rev. Dommic Ruscetta, C.S.S.

Rev. Thomas Henry, C.S.S.

Rev. John Ecker, C.S.S.

Rev. Angelo DaPrai, C.S.S.

Rev. James Flanagan, C.S.S.

Rev. Leo Geraci, C.S.S., R.I.P.

Rev. Ettore Canzano, C.S.S.

Rev. Leonard Ferrecchia, C.S.S.

Rev. Anthony Parcheski, C.S.S.

Rev. John Pashby, C.S.S.

Rev. Anthony DeCesare, C.S.S.

Rev. Leo Riley, C.S.S.

HISTORICAL EVENTS OF THE SACRED HEART CHURCH

November 26, 1922 — First Mass, River and Jackson Streets

Founders of Sacred Heart Parish:

Carmelo Cannistraro
Philip Cacciatore (deceased)
Stefano Cacciatore (deceased)
Frank LaRosa
John LaRosa
Angelo Mobilia
Antonio Niosi
Angelo Paino (deceased)
Frank Rizzo
James Simeone
John Sottile (deceased)
Salvatore Trapanese (deceased)
Frank Vaccarelo (deceased)

— 1923 --

Rev. Dalla Porta, Pastor
Formation of a society for the building of the new church
Parish Office located at 369 River Street
Young Ladies Sodality has 52 members
Formation of the Holy Name Society
Formation of the Christian Mothers Society

- 1924 —

March 3 -- Parish Reunion — Nuttings on the Charles
Agreement signed to buy land on River and Newton Streets
(120 x 123 feet, about 27 square feet)
Formation of Junior Holy Name Society
December 25, 1924 -- First Mass in Sacred Heart Church

— 1925 —

Sacred Heart Orchestra formed
September 20 - Organ purchased

— 1926 —

Sacred Heart Church Dramatic Club formed

— 1927 -

Rectory Completed

— 1928 -

Blessing of new bells

Father William Ludessi, Pastor

Boy Scouts Troop 9 formed

— 1932 -

Father Leo Sella, Pastor

— 1934 —

Father Emilio Baretella, Pastor

Renovation of church basement

Sacristy built -

— 1944 —

Father Humbert Zampieri, Pastor

Redecoration of church

— 1945 —

Father Louis Zuliani, Pastor

— 1947 —

November 27 — 25th Anniversary celebration

— 1952 —

Father Stephen Dalla Via, Pastor

— 1958 —

Plans for new church (committee for drive)

— 1960 —

January 26 — Breaking of ground

— 1964 —

New Church dedicated

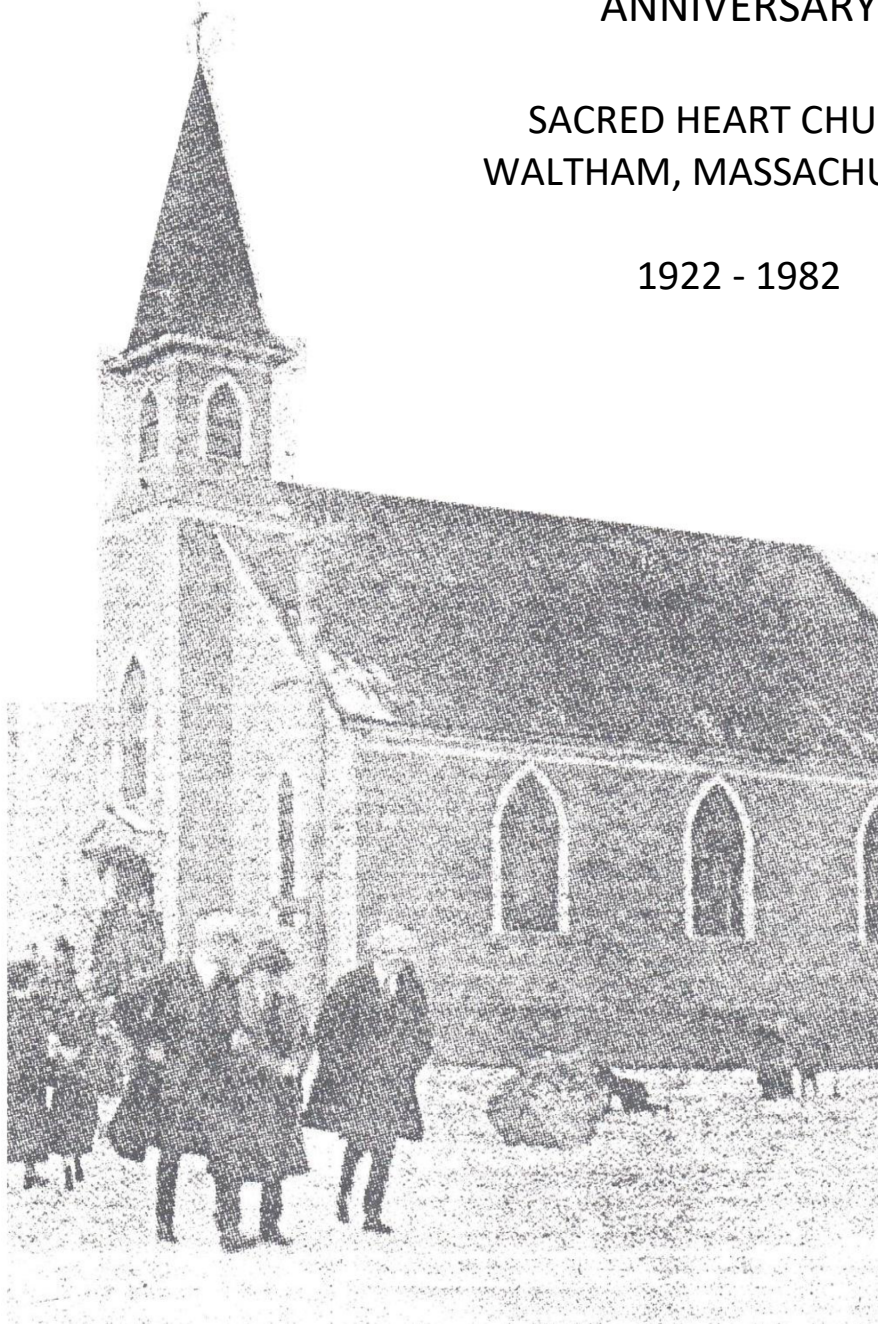


**Appendix 6.5: 60th Anniversary of the Sacred Heart Church in Waltham
[1982]**

**SIXTIETH
ANNIVERSARY**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

1922 - 1982

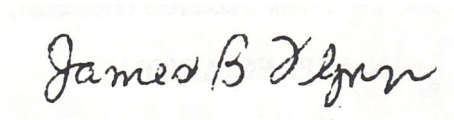


A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR:

The sixtieth anniversary of the foundation of the Church of Sacred Heart is an important moment in the life of our community. Our beautiful Church at the corner of Newton and River Street stands as an impressive symbol of the faith, the generosity and the love of your Italian forebears. As they settled in this country from their small Italian villages, Sacred Heart sustained them in the difficulties, their pain and other cultural adjustments. The church gave them strength and hope amid their problems and pain; it celebrated their joy in their happiness.

We have so much to learn from the faith of these wonderful people. Our time is marked by secularism, selfishness and violence. We need to make our church community a visible sign of the Kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice, peace and compassion, which Jesus preached.

Let us use this celebration of sixty years as a “faith community” to renew our faith, our love and our generosity. Let us pray that we will continue the wonderful work begun over sixty-years ago. Let us ask the Lord to bless us with his peace, joy and love.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James B. Flynn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The name "James" is written in a larger, more prominent script, followed by "B." and "Flynn". The signature is centered horizontally within the block.

(Rev.) James B. Flynn, C.S.S., P.H.D.

Pastor

DEDICATION:

We dedicate the spirit of this dinner dance to the founders, pastors, and curates of Sacred Heart Church and to the dedication, contribution and loyalty of the parishioners for the past sixty years, we offer our most heartfelt thanks.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR FORMER PASTORS.....

- Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta, C.S.S. (Deceased)
- Rev. William J. Ludessi, C.S.S. (Deceased)
- Rev. Leo Sella, C.S.S. (Deceased)
- Rev. Emilio Baretella, C.S.S. (Deceased)
- Rev. Humbert Zampieri, C.S.S. (Deceased)
- Rev. Louis J. Zuliani, C.S.S.
- Rev. Stephen Dalla Via, C.S.S. (Deceased)
- Rev. Carmen T. Russo, C.S.S.
- Rev. Charles E. Egan, C.S.S.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDERS..... I

- Carmelo Cannistraro (Deceased)
- Phillip Cacciatore (Deceased)
- Stefano Cacciatore (Deceased)
- Frank La Rosa
- John La Rosa
- Angelo Mobilia
- Antonio Niosi
- Angelo Paino (Deceased)
- Frank Rizzo (Deceased)
- James Simeone
- John Sottile (Deceased)
- Salvatore Trapanese (Deceased)
- Frank Vaccarelo (Deceased)

IN APPRECIATION:

To all who assisted in making this dinner-dance as interesting and memorable event, we extend our sincere appreciation. - The Committee

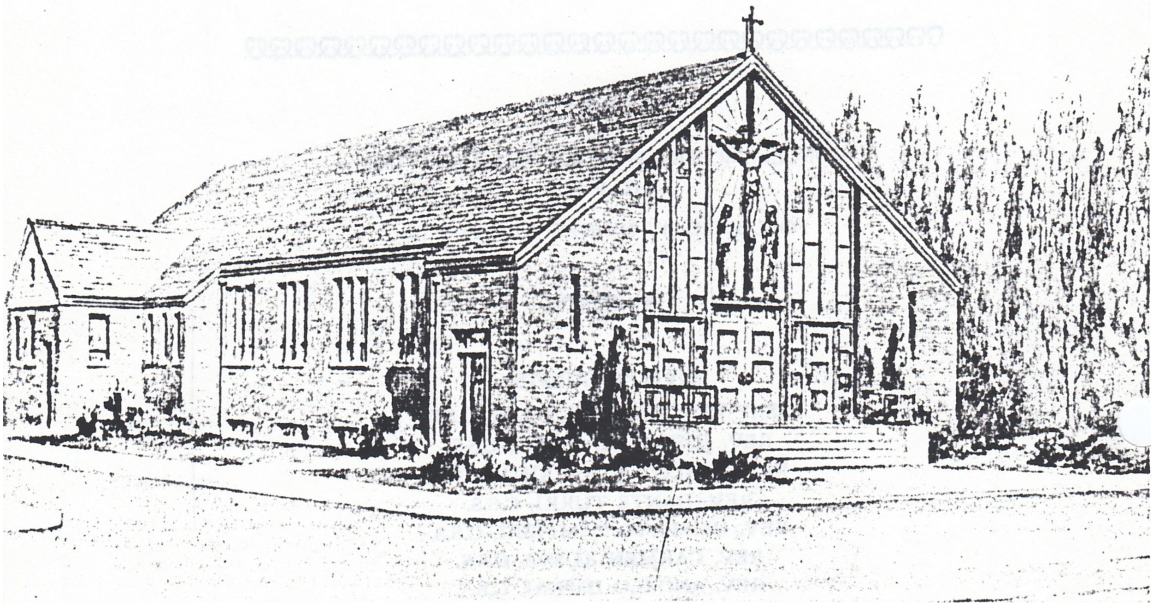
- Mr. & Mrs. John Battaglino
- Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Mangini
- Mr. & Mrs. James Generoso
- Mr. & Mrs. John Pinzone

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Frederick Brasco

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Dedication



St. Francis Church : Lynn, Massachusetts

Saturday, August 4, 1956



Dedicated

to the

Rev. Joseph Nardone, C. P. S.

first rector,

and all the deceased members of St. Francis Church.

This was their dream.

Rest In Peace

LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS — 1956



Very Rev. Denis Martinis, C.P.S., D.D.
Superior General

Padri Stimatini
Via Mazzarino 16,
Roma

June 11, 1956

Dear Father Russo:

It is, indeed, a great pleasure to hear of the opening of the new church of St. Francis. I wish to extend, at this time, my heartfelt congratulations to the Priests, the Societies and the faithful of St. Francis who, by working together, with a true spirit of Christian zeal, mutual understanding and generosity, have contributed towards the realization of this beautiful temple of devotion.

The history of St. Francis has been marked with many trying experiences. Yet the dogged spirit of perseverance and sacrifice, despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles, has won out. We cannot forget the long list of priests, who at one time or another, dedicated themselves to this church and its people, and I am sure that no matter where they are, they will rejoice with you on this eventful day. I am certain that the faithful of St. Francis appreciate the efforts of their present rector and his predecessors.

My ardent prayer is that this appreciation will be constantly translated into action by helping to shoulder the Rector's burdens; praying incessantly for spiritual needs of the church and its faithful, the primary object of any rectors; and finally by contributing generously towards the reduction of the debt as has been done towards the erection of this church.

May Saint Francis continue to bless and watch over you.

Devotedly yours in our Lord,

V. REV. DENIS MARTINIS, Sup. Gen.

STIGMATINE FATHERS
Provincial Headquarters
Springfield, Massachusetts

June, 1956

Reverend and Dear Father Russo:

It is a distinct pleasure for me to rejoice with you, and with all your good parishioners, on the occasion of the blessing of the new church of St. Francis, entrusted to the care of the Stigmatine Fathers.

I cannot help recalling the humble beginnings and vicissitudes of St. Francis; nor can I forget the other zealous priests who have labored there and to whom much credit must be given for today's glorious event. Chiefly, I must congratulate Father Erminio Lona, its pastor, who has labored untiringly to see this new church erected, and with whom you have so nobly co-operated to bring it to completion.

Needless to say, the parishioners of St. Francis are to be congratulated. Through their prayers and material sacrifices they have been proudly rewarded with a fitting edifice, wherein they can worship God and attend to their religious obligations. I know that they will continue to co-operate with you, or your successors, for the greater honor and glory of God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(VERY) REV. GILBERT G. FINI, C.P.S.
Provincial



Very Rev. Gilbert G. Fini, C.P.S.
Provincial

DEDICATION OF ST. FRANCIS CHURCH

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Program

INVOCATION.....Rev. Erminio Lona, C.P.S., Pastor

— DINNER —

MASTER OF CEREMONIES.....Rev. James Shea, C.P.S.

WELCOMEMayor Thomas Costin

PRINCIPAL SPEAKER.....Most Rev. Jeremiah F. Minihan, D.D., V.F., LL.D.

MESSAGE OF STIGMATINE FATHERS.....Very Rev. Gilbert Fini, C.P.S.
Provincial of Stigmatine Fathers

WORD OF APPRECIATION.....Rev. Carmen T. Russo, C.P.S., Rector

HISTORY OF CHURCH.....Rep. Pasquale Caggiano, General Chairman

Invited Guests

Bishop Jeremiah F. Minihan, D.D., V.F., LL.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Boston

Rev. James G. Shea, C.P.S., Master of Ceremonies

Very Rev. Gilbert Fini, C.P.S., Provincial of Stigmatine Fathers

Rev. Erminio Lona, C.P.S., Pastor

Mayor and Mrs. Thomas P. Costin, Jr.

Rev. Humbert Zampieri, C.P.S.

Rev. Dante Turri, C.P.S.

Rev. Angelo DaPrai, C.P.S.

Rev. Carlo Bevilacqua, C.P.S.

Rev. Guido Mespilli, C.P.S.

Rev. Paul Zanini, C.P.S.

Rev. Ettore Canzano, C.P.S.

Rev. Francis Keefe, C.P.S.

Rev. Remy Zadra, C.P.S.

Rev. Rinaldo Ribezzi, C.P.S.

Rev. Samuel Chameal, C.P.S.

Rev. Louis Bonan, C.P.S.

Rev. James Flanagan, C.P.S.

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Future Events

August 17, 18, 19 — Annual Feast of Sts. Cabrini, Anthony, Rocco.
September 1, 1956 — Commencement of Census.
September 30, 1956 — Opening of English-speaking mission.
October 7, 1956 — Opening of Italian-speaking mission.
November 23, 1956 — Forty Hours Devotions.
January 14, 1956 — Novena to Holy Espousals.
June 4, 1957 — Novena to St. Anthony.

Program

August 3, 1956 at 8 p.m. — Pre-Dedication Ball at Lynn Armory.
August 4, 1956 at 4 p.m. — Blessing of cornerstone, First Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Jeremiah F. Minihan, auxiliary Bishop of Boston.
August 4, 1956 at 7 p.m. — Dedication Banquet at Lynn Armory.
August 5, 1956 at 9 a.m. — Solemn High Mass for all donors of church celebrated by Very Rev. Gilbert Fini, C.P.S., Provincial of Stigmatine Fathers.
August 6, 1956 at 9 a.m. — Solemn Requiem Mass for all deceased members and friends of St. Francis Church celebrated by Rev. Erminio Lona, C.P.S., Pastor of church.
August 7, 1956 at 9 a.m. — Solemn High Mass for all sick and shut-ins of St. Francis Church.
August 7, 1956 — Commencement of St. Anthony Devotions at 7.30 p.m.
August 10, 1956 — Commencement of Sacred Heart and St. Cabrini Devotions.
August 11, 1956 at 9 a.m. — First Communion Ceremonies for children.

Thank You!

A personal note of gratitude to the Lynn Telegram-News and Lynn Daily Item for their many acts of kindness and their wonderful publicity concerning our church.

To the Italian-American Citizens Club and the Italian-American War Veterans Post 7 and the Warner Theatre, our heartfelt thanks for the use of their halls and theatre.

To our societies and our committees our blessings for a job well done.

To Rep. Pasquale Caggiano, Mr. Louis J. Panakio, Dr. Francis A. Pirone, Dr. Carlo Sbarra, Mr. Edward D. Torto, for their great interest in St. Francis Church, our best wishes.

1925

1969



St. Francis Church

LYNN, MASS.



DEDICATION

With pride and humility we dedicate this book and event to all, present and absent, for any effort or sacrifice, be it ever so humble, who have contributed to this event over the long period of years.

For this we say to each and everyone:

The Lord bless and keep you.

May He show His face to you.

And have pity on you.

May he turn His countenance towards you

And give you peace.

The Lord Bless you.

Thank you,

THE PRIESTS, PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF ST. FRANCIS CHURCH



COMMITTEE

JOSEPH PASQUALE

and

JOSEPHINE CORBAGLI

Co-Chairmen

LUCY VASSALO

JOSEPH FERRARO

AMELIA DITONDO

PETER JERARDI

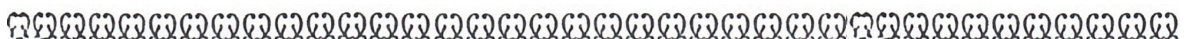
PHYLLIS COGLIANO

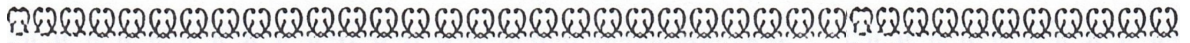
ROSE CORBAGLI

ESTHER MESSINA

JOHN PACE – Toastmaster

VITO ADAMO – History





PROGRAM

CONCELEBRATED MASS OF THANKSGIVING

4:00 P.M.

FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:00 P.M.



INVITED GUESTS

VERY REV. CHARLES EGAN, C.S.S.

REV. JOSEPH MASSARO, C.S.S.

REV. CARLO BEVILACQUA, C.S.S.

REV. DANTE TURRI, C.S.S.

REV. UMBERTO ZAMPIERI, C.S.S.

REV. CARMEN RUSSO, C.S.S.

REV. ANGELO DaPRAI, C.S.S.

REV. GUIDO P. MESPILLI, C.S.S.

REV. ADOLF FERRARI, C.S.S.

REV. SREFINO PIAZZI, C.S.S.

REV. LOUIS ANTONELLI, C.S.S.

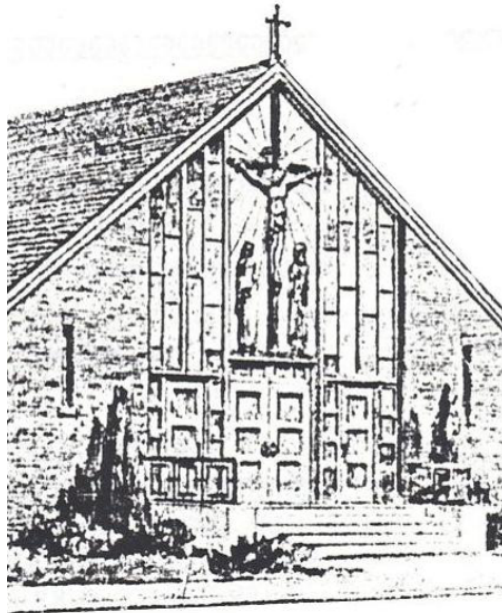
REV. CHARLES GONET, C.S.S.



5

Golden Jubilee

1925 - 1975



St. Francis Church

Lynn, Massachusetts

I write at this time to convey to the parishioners of Saint Francis Parish in Lvnn my heartiest con-

APPRECIATION

I wish to express a heartfelt thank you and a sincere appreciation to all the members of the Golden Jubilee Committee for their splendid cooperation in making the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of St. Francis Church such a splendid and memorable event. Once again you have risen to the height of the occasion. May the love for your Church be always your stairway to heaven. May God's Blessings and Love be ever yours.

Father Angelo J. DaPrai, C.S.S.



It is my pleasure to extend sincere congratulations on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of St. Francis Church.

The people of God at St. Francis Church have constantly shown a tenacious devotion to their church and their support and actions have substantiated their fidelity to their church.

I commend the people of St. Francis Church for their good works and I encourage them to show Christ's presence in our midst through their good example.

I express to them, and to yourself, the gratitude of all the Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers.

On this occasion, I ask that you remember in a special way, all those Stigmatine priests who have given of themselves unselfishly for the past fifty years, so that the people of St. Francis Church have been able to serve God well and faithfully.

With every personal best wish for all of you on this happy occasion, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,
Very Rev. Charles A. Sinesi, C.S.S.,
Provincial



In the name of the Stigmatine Fathers of Holy Family Church, I wish to extend our sincerest and warmest best wishes to you, dear parishioners of St. Francis Church, on the occasion of your GOLDEN JUBILEE.

May God reward each one of you for all the marvelous work you have accomplished in the past fifty years.

With God's blessings, may your tremendous spirit ever continue to grow in the years to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Rinaldo A. Ribezzi, C.S.S.,
Pastor

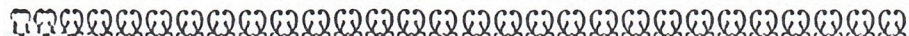


GOD'S BLESSINGS AND PEACE

Sincere congratulations to the Parishioners and Friends of St. Francis Church on the Golden Jubilee of their Church.

St. Francis Church is a living testimonial of the faith, labors, sacrifices and loving devotion of its courageous and faithful people and their devoted and dedicated Priests. May the Blessings and Graces of the gentle St. Francis continue to flow abundantly on Parishioners and Friends.

In the Lord,
Fr. Angelo J. DaPrai, C.S.S.



MY MEMORIES OF FR. JOSEPH NARDONE

AND SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH

by

William Callahan

Fifty years ago this month of April⁸ I came down to St. Francis.

My brother John preceded me by a few weeks, and we both joined with the founder, Fr. Joseph Nardone, in helping our little St. Francis Church. I found some wonderful people, both Italian and non-Italian, who were all enthusiastic and full of zeal and love for this church. They couldn't do enough to help Fr. Nardone in making a go of St. Francis. There was always something going on inside and outside of the church. We were kept quite busy with lawn parties, penny sales, raffles or anything that could make money for the upkeep of the church and many of these activities proved to be very successful.

Fr. Nardone was a very holy man, full of zeal and energy for a man his age, and he would do anything, or go anyplace to tend to the spiritual needs of the parishioners. With Masses, novenas and night services he kept himself occupied with all that went on at the church.

We were the first church in Lynn to have a statue of St. Theresa, The Little Flower, who was canonized a saint in 1925, the same year our church was founded. In the fall of that year we had a novena in honor of St. Theresa and the church was filled to capacity. My brother John and I built the first Christmas crib which was modeled like a little cave with imitation rocks. We copied this idea from a nearby church, where I was the sacristan.

A little over a year after St. Francis opened, my brother John died at the early age of 19. Fr. Nardone celebrated a memorial mass for the repose of his soul.

Shortly after my brother John died, Fr. Nardone asked me to take his place at St. Francis. Even though I was still at Sacred Heart, I couldn't refuse the powerful plea that Fr. Nardone made to me; moreover, I saw a wonderful chance of doing some good for the church, and its people and the Stigmatine Fathers.

⁸ Of 1975.

One of my principal duties at St. Francis was taking care of the altar boys. I never found such wonderful boys until I came to St. Francis. They were so good, willing to do all I asked of them. (To keep them together, I organized little clubs for them, and I let them build club rooms in the basement of the church. We did have many happy times together, and I enjoyed my association with them immensely.)

In 1926, Fr. Nardone had the front part of the church remodeled with a new entrance, enhanced by imitation stain glass windows. When this work was finished, we had our first big celebration. To begin with there was a solemn high Mass in the morning. Monsignor Bellino from Italy presided at the Mass. In the afternoon we had the blessing and dedication of the bell. Mr. and Mrs. Palleschi were the godfather and godmother of the bell.

At this time I must comment about a young high school girl who was our first organist at St. Francis. Her name is Mary Crighton Hingston. She was a student at St. Mary's High School. She gave of her time and talents and deserves special credit for giving our church its first choir. While on the subject of the choir, in the early years of the church, during the month of May, we had about a hundred boys and girls coming every morning singing the hymns and prayers in honor of our Blessed Mother. It was something to hear those children sing, and the Mass was at 7:00 in the morning.

In 1928, Fr. Nardone was transferred to Sacred Heart Church in Milford, Mass. A short time later he went to Brazil, where he was chaplain to a convent there. On Sunday morning he was giving benediction to the sisters, when the good Lord summoned him to His kingdom. He died at the foot of the altar.

Before closing, I must salute the good Stigmatine Fathers who serve here and with whom I have been so happily associated. They have worked so hard in giving of themselves for the good people. May the good Lord grant peace and happiness to those deceased Stigmatines and Parishioners, and may those Stigmatine and Parishioners who are still with us be assured that they will never be forgotten.



CLOSING

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON SUPPRESSED AND MERGED PARISHES					<small>Website Version</small> Revised: 12/1/2011
<u>CLOSED/MERGED PARISH</u>	<u>DATE</u> (M)=Merged (S)=Suppressed (N) = New (A)=Altered				<u>WELCOMING PARISH</u> <u>(RECEIVING PARISH/RECORDS) *</u>
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Lynn	(S) 1/1/1993				Holy Family Parish, Lynn (Italian) - Later transferred to RCAB
St. Francis Parish, Lawrence (Lithuanian)	(S) 7/7/2002				[initially Holy Rosary Parish, Lawrence] then to Corpus Christi Parish, Lawrence
St. Gabriel Parish, Boston (Brighton)	(S) 7/14/2006				St. Columbkille Parish, Boston (Brighton)
St. George Parish, Haverhill	(M) 8/29/1998				All Saints Parish, Haverhill
St. George Parish, Norwood (Lithuanian)	(S) 8/30/2004				St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Norwood* or another RCAB Lithuanian Parish
St. Hedwig Parish, Cambridge (Polish)	(S) 6/15/1995				Archives*; Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Boston (South Boston)
St. Hugh Parish, Boston (Roxbury)	(M) 5/15/2005				St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Boston (Roxbury)
St. James Parish, Groton	(M) 3/31/2003				Sacred Heart-St. James Parish, Groton
St. James Parish, Medford	(S) 9/15/2004				St. Joseph Parish, Medford* and Immaculate Conception Parish, Malden
St. James the Apostle Parish, Arlington	(S) 10/18/2004				St. Camillus Parish, Arlington* and St. Eulalia Parish, Winchester
St. James the Great Parish, Wellesley	(S) 10/31/2004				St. Paul Parish, Wellesley* and St. Patrick Parish, Natick
St. Jean Baptiste Parish, Lowell	(S) 6/28/1993				[initially St. Louis de France Parish, Lowell] then to St. Marguerite D'Youville Parish, Dracut
St. Jean Baptiste Parish, Lynn (French)	(S) 1/12/1998				St. Mary Parish, Lynn* or another RCAB French Parish
St. Jeanne d'Arc Parish, Lowell (French)	(S) 8/30/2004				St. Rita Parish, Lowell* or another RCAB French Parish
St. Jeremiah Parish, Framingham	(S) 5/13/2005				St. George Parish, Framingham
St. Jerome Parish, Arlington	(S) 9/26/2004				St. Agnes Parish, Arlington* and St. Joseph Parish, Belmont
St. Joachim Parish, Rockport	(S) 1/8/2005				Holy Family Parish, Gloucester
St. John Parish, Boston (Roxbury)	(M) 5/15/2005				St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Boston (Roxbury)
St. John the Baptist Parish, Boston (East Boston) (Portuguese)	(S) 10/1/1999				Sacred Heart Parish, Boston (East Boston)* or another RCAB Portuguese Parish
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Newton (French)	(S) 3/18/1997				Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Newton* or to another RCAB French Parish
St. John the Evangelist Parish, North Chelmsford	(A) 7/1/2009				Transferred Dunstable area to Our Lady of Grace Parish, Pepperell
St. John Vianney Parish, Revere	(M) 7/1/2001				St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Revere
St. Joseph Chapel, Magnolia					
St. Joseph Parish, Amesbury	(M) 5/30/1998				Holy Family Parish, Amesbury
St. Joseph Parish, Boston (East Boston)	(S) 6/1/1985				St. Joseph-St. Lazarus Parish, Boston (East Boston)
St. Joseph Parish, Boston (Hyde Park)	(S) 8/8/2004				St. Angela Merici Parish, Boston (Mattapan)

In the first line of this table we read that St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Lynn was suppressed on 01/01/1993. The welcome parish was its Mother Church, the Holy Family Parish in East Lynn. Later on the records were transferred to RCAB.

Note: this information was found on:

http://www.bostoncatholic.org/uploadedFiles/BostonCatholicorg/Parishes_And_People/rcab-parishesclosed-welcomingparishes12012011.pdf