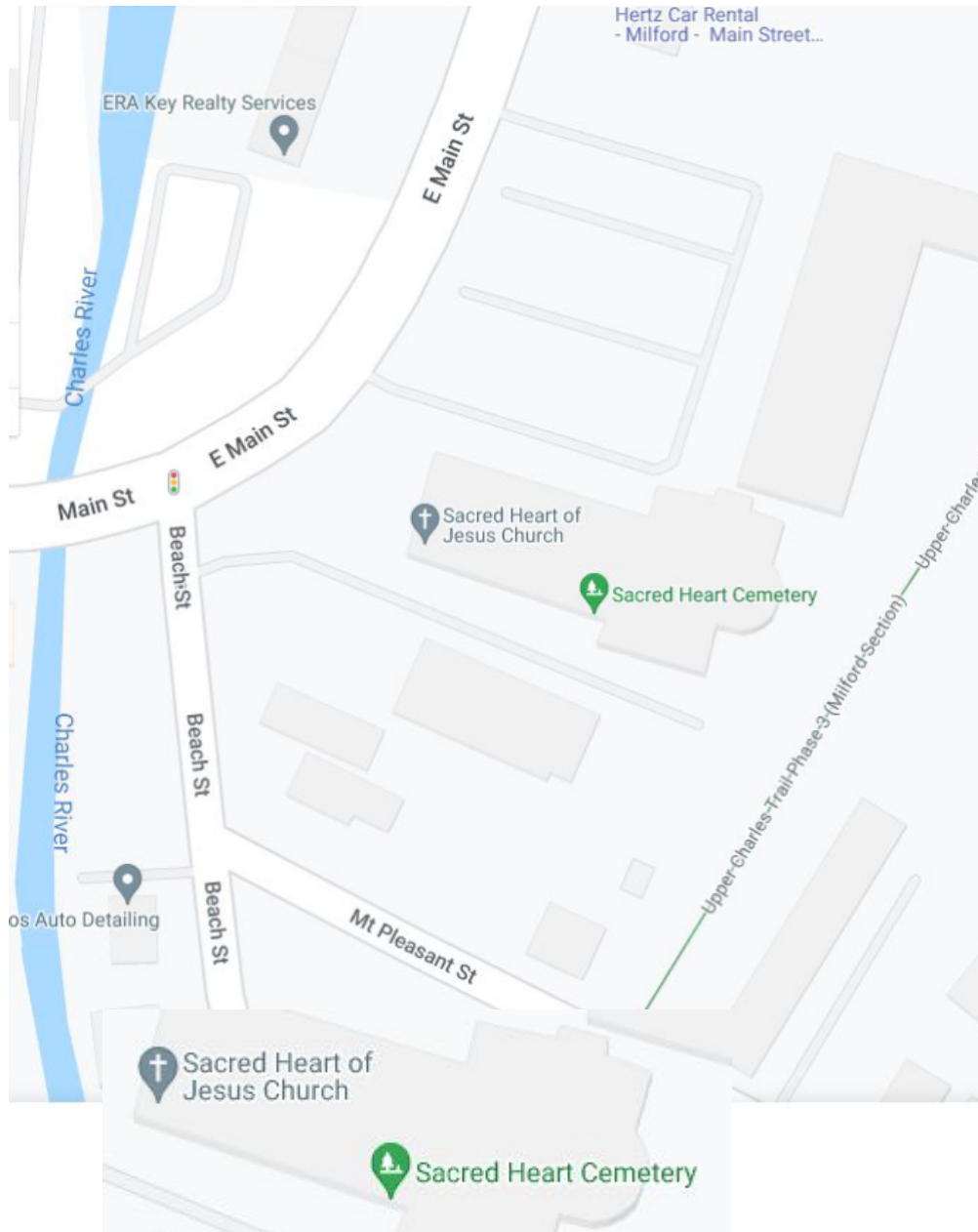


**CHAPTER SEVEN: SACRED HEART CHURCH  
in MILFORD, MA**



5 East Main Street  
Milford, MA  
<https://sacredheartmilford.org>

**On the birthday of St. Gaspar Bertoni, 2024**





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Milford, MA</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Highlights of the Parish History</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>I. Historical Background</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>II. Early Times [1905 – 1938]</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>III. Towards the Golden Jubilee [1938 – 1955]</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>IV. Towards the Diamond Jubilee [1956 – 1980]</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>V. Towards the Centennial [1981 – 2005]</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>VI. Towards the Future [From 2006 on]</b>	<b>132</b>

### List of Appendices:

	Page
<b>Appendix 7.1: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Appendix 7.2: Golden Jubilee [1955]</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>Appendix 7.3: Diamond Jubilee [1980]</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Appendix 7.4: List of the Deceased Stigmatines whose bodies are buried in Milford</b>	<b>198</b>



## Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Milford, MA

Foundation:  
1913



"In the week of August 13, 1922, Miss Elizabeth Supple went to her reward. A noble and kindly character whose generosity knew no bounds. It was upon the advice of one of her brother priests, Rev. James Supple, that she bequeathed the land where on the Sacred Heart of Jesus church now stands. May God always reward her for such kindness and generosity."

### Highlights of the Parish History

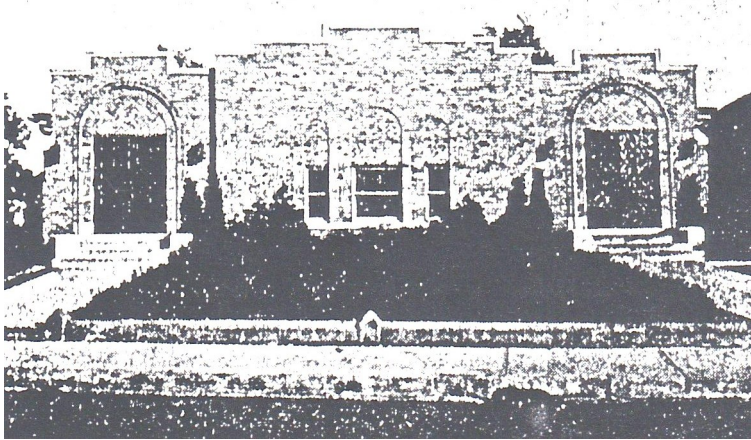
1. 1890 – First Mass by an Italian Priest at the Stone Castle
2. October 21, 1894 – Meeting at the Town Hall to discuss possibility of Italian Parish
3. 1905 - Reverend Rocco Petrarca arrives as First Pastor
4. June 10, 1905 – Annie J. Miett deeds land to trustees
5. August 13, 1905 – Dedication of the first Church
6. May 16, 1910 – Blessing of the second Church
7. November 19, 1913 – Arrival of Stigmatine Fathers
8. December 24, 1919 – Arrival of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy
9. November 3, 1922 – Purchase of Clancy Property
10. March 22, 1923 – Miss Supple's Donation of Property
11. September 26, 1927 – Opening of Sacred Heart Parochial School
12. December 18, 1927 – Dedication of the lower Church
13. May 26, 1937 – Purchasing of land for Cemetery
14. October 18, 1937 – First burial at our Cemetery
15. November, 1939 – Burning of mortgage
16. March 18, 1946 – Construction of the upper Church begins
17. July 20, 1947 – Dedication of the upper Church
18. June 3, 1950 – Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood of four young men to the Stigmatine order
19. December 9, 1950 – Breaking ground for new School
20. September 5, 1951 – Opening of New Sacred Heart Parochial School
21. January 21, 1952 – Dedication of new School
22. June 12 to 19, 1955 – Golden Jubilee Celebration
23. March 3, 1957 – Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination
24. 1961 – Construction of new Rectory
25. June 1968 – Installation of new Organ

26. July 1971 – Renovation of lower Church
27. 1972 – Sale of Medway Road property – all outstanding debts paid
28. May 27, 1973 – Dedication of renovated upper Church
29. June 24, 1978 – Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Joseph Manella
30. December, 1978 – Installation of new Church Bells
31. November 16, 1980 – Diamond Jubilee Celebration
32. 1986 - Rev. Richard Scioli, CSS is assigned as the new Pastor
33. 2005 – Centennial Jubilee
34. 3rd Millennium Associate Pastors: Rev. Leonard (“Lenny”) Ferrecchia, CSS (1929 - +2019) and from the last few years on by Rev. Gregory Hoppough, CSS.  
3rd Millennium established website: <https://sacredheartmilford.org>
35. 3rd Millennium Church renovations (2016):  
<https://sacredheartmilford.org/photoalbums/2016-renovations>
36. 3rd Millennium Cemetery

§§§

## I. Historical Background

Efforts on the part of a number of Italians of the community of Milford to erect a church in the latter part of the XIX century are recorded in the Town Annals. The first meeting was held at Town Hall on October 21, 1894. Sanction was granted by Rev. Patrick Cuddihy, then pastor of St. Mary's Church, with the approval of the Bishop, Rt. Rev. Thomas D. Beaven.



Front of the new Church

Following the first meeting, funds were appropriated and land was purchased on East Main Street, adjacent to the car barns. Owing to difficulties, the project was abandoned, the land was sold and the money placed in a bank.

## II. Early Times: 1905 – 1938

### - The 1<sup>st</sup> Pastor, Fr. Rocco Petrarca [1905]

A second and successful effort for a church was made in 1905, at a meeting held at Town Hall. Previous to the meeting, in the spring of the same year, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Beaven sent Rev. Father Rocco Petrarca to Milford. He conducted services in St. Mary's church, and in the meantime worked zealously to secure funds for a church for the Italian populace.

On June 10, 1905, the John Miller property of East Main Street near the basin was procured. Services were held there after it was remodeled. A tower and stone front were added, and a marble plaque inserted with the inscription:

***"Dei gratia fecit populiq[ue] auxilio, Rev. Rochus Petrarca, A. D. 1905".***





FR. ROCCO PETRARCA  
Founder and Pastor of First Parish  
1905 - 1913

In the eleventh day of May, 1905, Vincent Di Paolo was the first Italian to be baptized. Glorious indeed has been the progress of the church since its inception. The number of baptisms administered from May, 1905 to 1938<sup>1</sup> was 5,569. On the eleventh day of June, 1905, Rev. Fr. Petrarca blessed Miss Gemma D'Aniello and Mr. Anthony Tomaino in wedlock, the first of 1,328 marriages registered up to 1938<sup>2</sup>.

Rev. Fr. Petrarca, after working indefatigably in behalf of the Italians of Milford, departed on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 1913, to be pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio.

#### - The 1<sup>st</sup> Stigmatine Pastor, Fr. Erminio Lona [1913 - 1924]

Rev. Erminio Lona succeeded Rev. Fr. Petrarca on November 7, 1913, and was the first Stigmatine Father to take over the duties of the Italian Parish of Milford. Rev. Fr. Lona worked among the Italians for a period of ten years, and with his kind and affable manner did much for the spiritual betterment of the parishioners.

The Rev. Father Anthony Toniolli, who went to his reward in September, 1925; Rev. Leo Sella; Rev. Fr. Joseph Nardon, who died in the city of Campinas, in Brazil, while imparting the benediction with the Most Blessed Sacrament; and Rev. Fr. Emilio Baretella served in Milford during the period in which Rev. Fr. Lona was pastor.



FR. ERMINIO LONA  
2<sup>nd</sup> Pastor [1913 - 1924]  
[1<sup>st</sup> Stigmatine Pastor]

<sup>1</sup> Author's note: these numbers refer to the closing of the Souvenir Booklet of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Milford, in 1938.

<sup>2</sup> Same as above.





FR. ANTHONY TONIOLI  
CURATE  
[1886 - +1925]



FR. LEO SELLA  
CURATE  
[1879 - +1957]



FR. JOSEPH NARDON  
CURATE  
[1873 - +1933]



FR. EMILIO BARETELLA  
CURATE  
[1873 - +1956]

**- The coming of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy [1919]**

On December 26, 1919 at the request of Rev. Father E. Lona, pastor, four Sisters of the Congregation of the Daughters of O. L. of Mercy arrived in Milford: Sister M. Vincenzina, Superior, Sister M. Virginia, Sister M. Patricia and Sister M. Casimira. They came principally to attend to the religious instruction of the children of the parish. In addition, they taught embroidery and Italian to those who wished it, and conducted a kindergarten in the lower rooms of the school. They worked with alacrity and saw their efforts rewarded by the numerous attendances of all their classes.

- **The Generosity of Miss Elizabeth and Fr. James Supple [1923]**

It is largely through the generosity of Miss Elizabeth Supple and her brother, Rev. James Supple, that the Italians in Milford may boast of this elegant church. They donated to the Italian parish their home and land, by erecting the spacious and beautiful basement, whereon the Italians were able to hold their religious services in a dignified manner. But Fr. Fontana had a vision of the future development of our parish, and that basement was none too large.

## IN MEMORIAM

When you enter this church remember Elizabeth C. Supple who generously bequeathed the ground whereon to build it and her brother, Rev. James Supple whose advice she followed. Pray for the repose of their souls.

A. D. MCMXXIII

- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Stigmatine Pastor, Fr. Louis Fontana [1924 - 1928]**



In February of 1924, Rev. Fr. Lona was called to Waltham to direct the preparatory school of young men in training for the priesthood. He was succeeded by a very young and energetic priest, Fr. Louis Fontana.

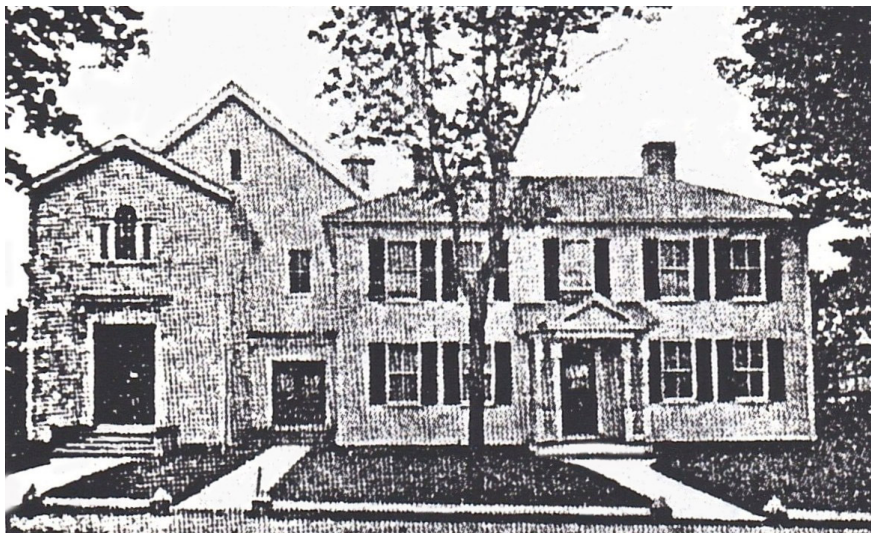
FR. LOUIS FONTANA  
3rd Pastor [1924 – 1928]  
[2<sup>nd</sup> Stigmatine Pastor]

- **School has new Superior [Sep., 1924]**

After five years of work in this parish, the Superior, Sister M. Vincenzina, was called to Italy and was replaced by Sister M. Amable.

- **The Inauguration of the School [Sep., 1927]**

Under the Superior Sister M. Vincenzina, and through the untiring zeal of the pastor, Rev. L. Fontana, the first class of the Parochial school was begun on Sept. 6, 1927. There were 41 pupils enrolled.

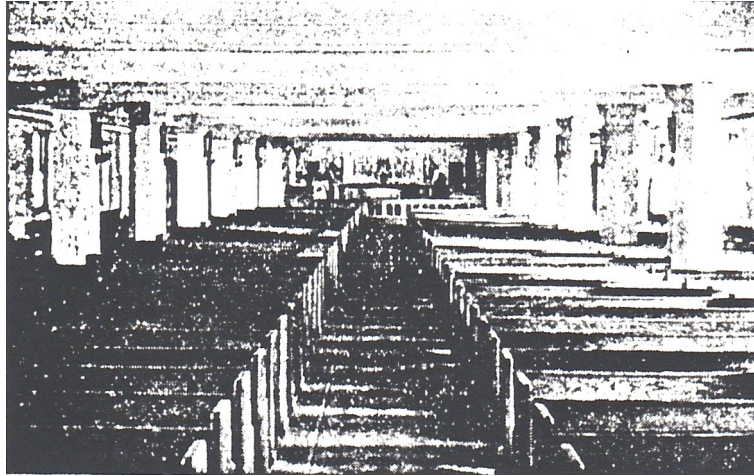


Sacred Heart Parish School and the Convent

- **The Inauguration of the new Church [Christmas, 1927]**

The insufficient accommodations of the old church and the increased attendance at Sunday Masses soon gave way to a new structure erected during the years in which Rev. Fr. Louis Fontana labored among the Italians. The new church was solemnly inaugurated on Christmas Eve at the midnight Mass in the year 1927.

However, one year elapsed after the new edifice was inaugurated, when Rev. Fr. Louis Fontana was called by superiors to White Plains, NY.



Interior of the new Church

**- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Stigmatine Pastor, Fr. Raymond Dalla Porta [1928 - 1933]**

Rev. Fr. Raymond Dalla Porta was pastor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Waltham when called to Milford on Rev. Fontana's departure. He took over the painful duty of scaling down the debt, during those years of depression; it was a difficult task, but he did not neglect the young people for the lack of money; he kept adding a class every year to the newly school and provided the bowling alleys in the basement of the old church, to keep in touch with the young and old alike. Under his supervision the Garden Hall was established and bowling alleys were constructed in the basement.

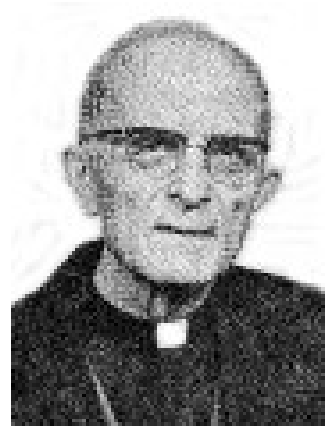
Assisting Fr. Dalla Porta in his work were Fr. Giuseppe Nardon, Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi and Fr. Humbert Zampieri.



REV. RAYMOND DALLA PORTA  
4th Pastor [1928 – 1933]  
[3<sup>rd</sup> Stigmatine Pastor]



REV. ALFRED BALESTRAZZI  
CURATE  
[1871 - +1945]



REV. HUMBERT ZAMPIERI  
CURATE  
[1898 - +1976]

- **Expansion of the School [1929]**

Within two years after its foundation, the second and third grades were added. During the summer months of 1929, the hall above the three classrooms, which until then had served for entertainments, was converted into three more rooms thus providing for the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. There were added early each following year. Improvements were made in the ventilating and heating system by order of the Pastor, Rev. R. Dalla Porta.

- **The 4<sup>th</sup> Stigmatine Pastor, Fr. Julius Valentinelli [1933 – 1942]**



REV. JULIUS VALENTINELLI  
5th Pastor [1933 – 1942]  
[4<sup>th</sup> Stigmatine Pastor]

In the month of March, 1933, Fr. Dalla Porta was transferred to the West Springfield pastorate, and Rev. Julius Valentinelli, a very young and energetic priest, was chosen as his successor. Fr. Valentinelli was installed pastor effective April 1, 1933.

The construction of the recreational rooms which serve for parish society gatherings was the first accomplishment of Fr. Valentinelli.

Another field of activity for Fr. Valentinelli was the Garden Theatre, which, if it did not bring so much revenue to the church, provided plenty of fun to the youngsters of the parish.



- **School has two additional rooms [1933]**

A serious problem faced the new pastor – to complete the grammar grades, he had to provide two additional rooms. These were built in the summer of 1933<sup>3</sup>.

- **School has new Superior [1933]**

In the same year Fr. Valentinelli assumed as new pastor, a new Superior, Sr. M. Bridget, assumed charge of the school.

- **The School is expanded again [1933 – 1935]]**

Still in 1933, a serious problem faced the new pastor – to complete the grammar grades, he had to provide two additional rooms. These were built in the summer of 1933<sup>4</sup>.

By June 1935, Sacred Heart School was completed with an enrollment of 320 children. The first graduation of 25 pupils was held at the Town Hall, June 12, 1935, with Monsignor Doyle delivering a splendor address to the graduates. In the following June, there were 33 graduates in the ceremony being held in Church.

- **School has new Superior [1936]**

In September, 1936, the Superior Sister M. Bridget was replaced by Sister M. Antonia.

- **Third graduation in the School [1936]**

At the close of the scholastic year of 1936, the third graduation comprised 37 pupils.

- **The Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery [1937]**

Fr. Valentinelli's first project was to give the Italians of Milford a cemetery of their own.

In the evening of May 26, 1937, no opposition was voiced at a public meeting held in the Town Hall on an application of Most Rev. Thomas M. O'Leary, bishop of the Springfield Catholic Diocese, to establish a cemetery on about 55 acres of land on the northerly side of Medway Street for Sacred Heart of Jesus Italian Parish.

---

<sup>3</sup> The source document is quite unreadable at this spot, but for the most of our sight it could be read as 1933.

<sup>4</sup> The source document is quite unreadable at this spot, but for the most of our sight it could be read as 1933.



Immediately after, with the cooperation of the Parishioners, the beautiful cemetery was developed, of which the Italians of this town may justly be proud. It was the second cemetery done in vicinity. Roads, 18 feet in width, have been completed and Milford granite curbstones have been laid. Evergreen and Maple trees have been planted along both sides of the main road.

Only God knows the hours of intelligent and even manual work that Fr. Valentinelli and his curates, Fr. John Golden and Fr. John Louis Ecker, have spent to give us this model cemetery; this will be the best monument, which will make them to be remembered and blessed by the present and future generations.



REV. JOHN GOLDEN  
CURATE  
[1910 - +1989]



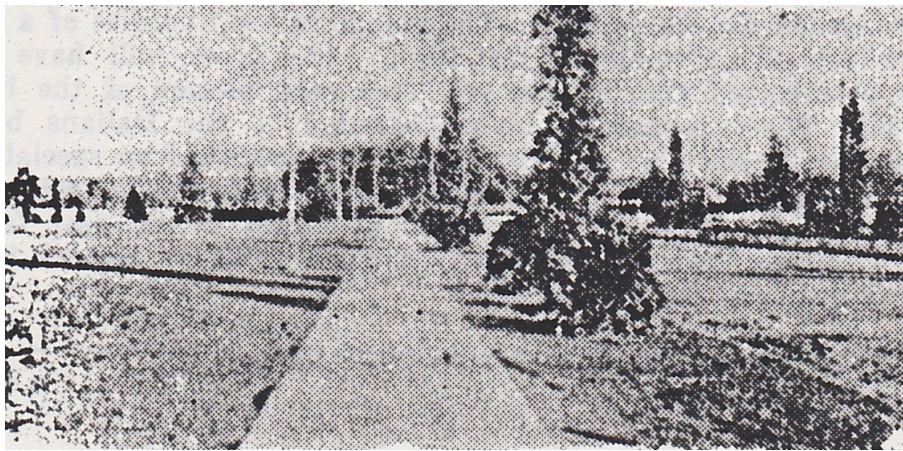
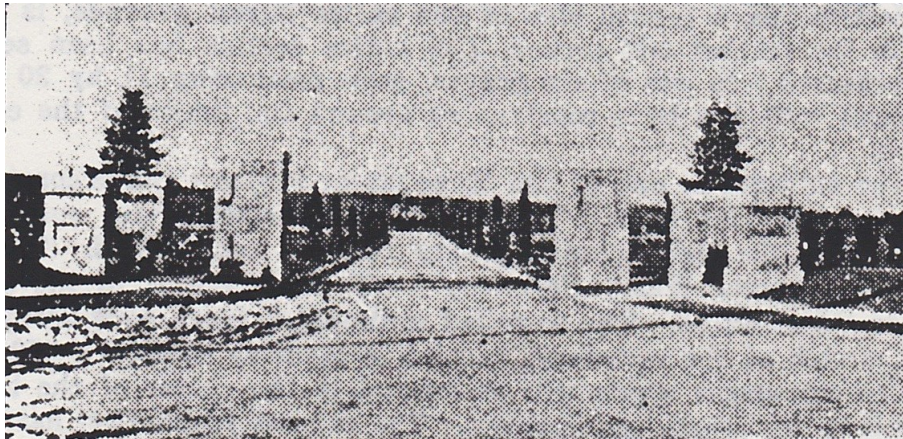
REV. JOHN LOUIS ECKER  
CURATE  
[1911 - +1986]

Section one, a typical idea of the entire burial grounds, is situated in the further left corner. The entire section has been seeded and measured into lots of six graves, each measuring 11 by 20 feet. A cement walk has been constructed around the limits of the entire section.

The entrance is one of the three major projects and is constructed in semi-circular form. There will be a golden chain suspended from two of the eight granite pillars recently<sup>5</sup> constructed. The inscription "*Sacred Heart Cemetery*" will be embedded in the grace near to the entrance. The so-called millionaire fence runs along the front stretch of the cemetery, parallel to Medway Street for 450 feet.

---

<sup>5</sup> i.b.



New Sacred Heart Church Cemetery

The monument which will be located in the center of the burial grounds is of future undertaking. The cement foundation has been made and at present<sup>6</sup> a circular knoll has been laid out with curb-stones around the entire base. The monument will consist of a cross in the form of a pyramid, 18 feet high. The cross will have four faces, so designed that a cross will face each section of the burial grounds. The monument is to be dedicated to the Italians buried at St. Mary's cemetery. Their names will be inscribed on special durable paper placed in an urn, conserved in a vault at the foot of the monument. An offering for such will be raised in the near future. At the further end of the cemetery a chapel will be erected to accommodate about 20 persons.

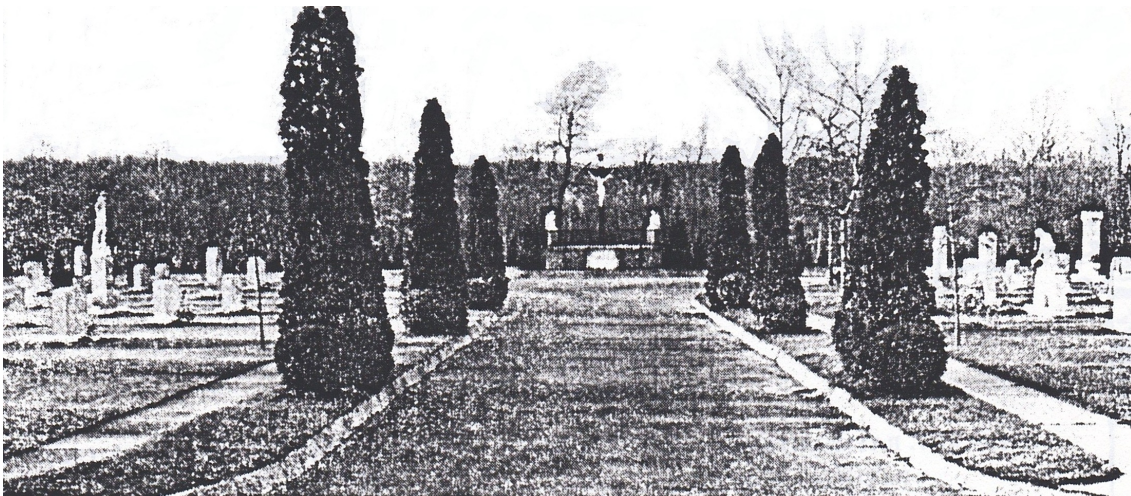
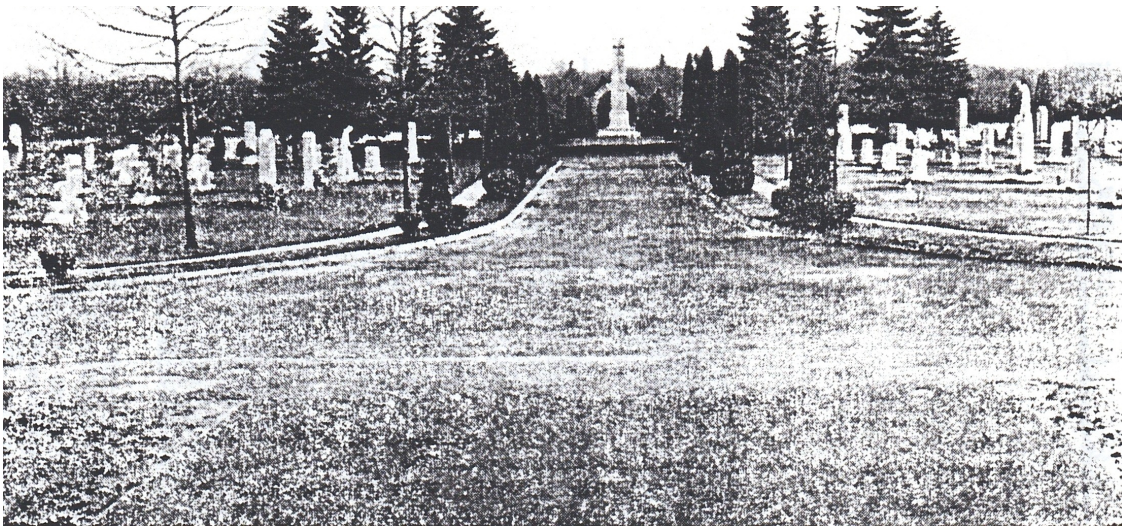
---

<sup>6</sup> i.b.



- **The Dedication of the Calvary [1938]**

On May 29, 1938, the dedication of the beautiful Calvary monument took place with great religious ceremony. A procession was formed in front of the Church, and thousands of people marched from the Church to the cemetery, where the solemn Benediction of the monument took place. The throng of parishioners and friends attending the ceremony were impressed by the beauty of the place and the seriousness of the ceremony. Our Seminary Choir from Waltham, then under the direction of Fr. DaPrai, sang appropriate dedicatory hymns for the occasion.



Inside Cemetery

The Calvary Monument stands in the middle of the cemetery, and it is 18 feet high, built of granite from the Milford Caves. It is in the form of a cross. At this time, provisions were also made for burial, which could take place in the severe winter months; a cellar was constructed in the northern part of the cemetery.

Father Julius did not forget the Garden Hall either; changing the name to Garden Theater, he used it as a theater, principally for the youngsters of the Parish, where they found plenty of fun.

### **III. Towards the Golden Jubilee [1939 – 1955]**

#### **- The Burning of the Old Mortgage [1939 - 1942]**

On the first Sunday of November, 1939, Father Julius Valentinelli announced to the parishioners that a drive would start to burn the old mortgage, in order to be able to start the construction of the upper Church and eventually of a main auditorium. The mortgage, at that time, was \$35,000.00. The response of the parishioners was marvelous, so that, by the end of 1942, not only the old mortgage was all paid off, but the present inside and outside stairways, and the present entrances to the lower Church, were constructed and paid for. Now, everything was ready for the new Church. But the war, with its scarcity of materials, prevented the undertaking of a work at that time. Besides, by the end of 1942, Father Julius Valentinelli entered the service of the country, serving as chaplain in the United States Army.

Due to his various activities, and the cooperation of the parishioners, Father Julius Valentinelli was able to leave the parish with a great consolation in his heart: “the Sacred Heart Parish of Milford was completely free from any debt”.

#### **- Fr. Paul Zanini, parish administrator [1942]**

At this time, Fr. Paul Zanini came to Milford as administrator. He had all the good intentions, and all the enthusiasm necessary to do much for the Sacred Heart Parish, but he only stayed a few months, because, unfortunately, the conditions of his health did not allow him to carry on. But, in the short time he stayed, he certainly won the esteem of everybody.

#### **- Fr. Raymond Dalla Porta returns; the Church is completed [1943]**

In June of 1943, Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta was once again made Pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish. After three years of hard saving, he had \$100,000.00 in the bank. Realizing that the task to build the upper Church had fallen upon himself, after the

necessary permission was granted by the Bishop of Springfield, Most Rev. Thomas M. O’Leary, the construction started on March 18, 1946. The contract for the construction of the upper Church called for \$300,000.00.

After only sixteen months of anxious expectation, the Sacred Heart Parishioners saw with great satisfaction the whole Church completed. Anyone who has seen the Church will certainly agree that it is a splendid monument to the faith and the generosity of the Italians in Milford, and to the artistic taste of the priests. The whole thing could only have been done by the cooperation between the parishioners and their priests.

- **Dedication of the new Church [1947] <sup>7</sup>**

“In building this beautiful temple, the Italians of Milford have erected -”, thus spoke the Most Rev. Thomas M. O’Leary, Bishop of Springfield, on the morning of July 20, 1947, dedicating the new Church – “not only a tower of glory for themselves, but a symbol of duty to God for everyone to see. I thank you and congratulate you for all your good work and fine spirit of cooperation in building this beautiful House of God, who will reward even those who will dedicate but a cup of cold water in His Name.”

On that morning, the dreams and the sacrifices of thousands were fulfilled and rewarded. Since August 13, 1905, when the Sacred Heart had a modest beginning in a small wooden Church, the Italian people of Milford have envisioned the day when they would have a majestic edifice, which would be a proof of their love and generosity to the Parish. The new Church proudly takes its place among the many beautiful churches in this section of the country.

Previous to the dedicatory Pontifical Mass, the Bishop blessed the cornerstone with a special ceremony. At that time, a bronze box containing the history of the Church, the names of the building fund donors and other data were sealed into the cornerstone. Following the Solemn Pontifical Mass, the Bishop blessed the altar. At the dedication were present many priests, among whom, we are pleased to mention, was Msgr. John P. Phelan, Vicar General of the Diocese.

The choir, under the direction of Miss Ada Di Giannantonio, and Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta at the organ, sang the majestic “*Bendicamus*” Mass of Lorenzo Perosi.

Before the Bishop’s inspiring sermon, the Pastor, Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta, thanked the congregation for their loyal support. The festivity was prolonged in the

---

<sup>7</sup> More details on Appendix 7.2: Golden Jubilee Booklet.

afternoon, when the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a large class of children. Monsignor Phelan gave the Solemn Benediction, with the Bishop and over twenty priests assisting.

From a note of thanks of the Pastor, we read: "Today, more than ever, may it be said that the little grain of mustard-seed, planted here some forty-one years ago, has grown into a noble tree. How the hearts of the little Church and the hearts of the little band, who came here then to worship, must rejoice to see this day... Today is a day of triumph, for today the Italian Catholics of Milford unveiled not only to the town, but to the state, their undying faith in God, their spirit of generosity and of sacrifice. For today, each one of you can present a most beautiful Church and truly say – 'Behold my Church'. Here then, through the length and breath of nave and transept, from the silent hearts of prayerful people, and from the deep diapason of the organ, shall arise the same hymn of praise, the same silent voice of adoration, which resounded through the old wooden Church, years ago.

To the Sacred Heart of Jesus is our glorious temple dedicated. To Him we offer it, with the homage of our fidelity and eternal trust.

Accept, O Lord, the offering of Thy children, and may Thy Holy presence remain here forever, to bless and sanctify Thy sons and daughters who have built this Church in Thy honor".

- **Project of a new School [1950]**

**Need of a new School**

"Our next undertaking must be for the children", the Pastor, Father Dalla Porta, wrote in the Parish Messenger<sup>8</sup> on February 1950, "because they are those who will carry into future generations the great gift of faith".

The Parish School, due to the greater number of children wanting to attend and considering that it was only an adaptation of an old building, was inadequate for modern needs. In addition to this, the state authorities at different times had suggested the complete renovation of the whole building. The Pastor became convinced of the necessity of constructing a new building.

---

<sup>8</sup> Co-author's note: This word is typed here with the same spelling of the original document, even though the English dictionaries only recognize the spelling 'Messenger'.



### **Plans for a new School**

A meeting of the officers of the Church Societies and of all the Italian Societies and Clubs of the Town was held on Wednesday, January 10, 1950.

All who were present manifested their enthusiasm for the new school project, and also manifested their willingness to help raise the necessary funds. Father Dalla Porta told them that the cost of the new school would be high, but what was done for the Church could also be repeated for the school. The expense for the upper Church, he said, was over \$300,000.00, and of this enormous sum there was only \$81,000.00 still to be paid. The Parish Messenger of January 15, 1951 said: "We have all the reason to hope that the Italians of Milford will show once more their stern will and determination to be progressive for the education of our children and for the glory and honor of God and Country".

### **Permission Granted**

After some difficulties about the surveying of the property were settled, the permission was granted by the ecclesiastical authorities to go ahead in the plans for the construction of the new school. Bids were given out in November 13, 1950. The Most Rev. John J. Wright, Bishop of Worcester, opened the bids in front of the Pastor. The school was to cost more than half a million dollars. This step in our parish life marks the realization of a fond dream of all the previous Pastors, of our beloved Sisters and of all the good parishioners.

Father Dalla Porta expressed his sentiments: "We are indebted to our Most Rev. Bishop of Worcester for his immediate recognition of the need of a new school, and we pray God that the blessings this structure will bring to our Parish in generations of trained Catholics men and women will rebound to his credit and to the credit of the Holy See".

### **Braking Ground**

December 9, 1950, at 3 p.m., another milestone was reached by the Sacred Heart Parish, when Bishop John J. Wright blessed the site and turned over the first shovel of dirt for the new Sacred Heart Parochial School and Convent at Supple Square.

The ground breaking was an imposing ceremony. His Excellency, accompanied by the Milford High School Band through the grounds, was surrounded by hundreds of parishioners, school children and friends. Among the priests attending were Rev. William J. Foran, Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Milford; Rev. F. Howard McCullough,

Pastor of the Sacred Heart Church in Hopedale; Rev. William Ludessi, Pastor of Mount Carmel Church in Springfield, and many Fathers from the Stigmatine houses at Waltham and Wellesley.

On the speakers platform there were also the following guests: Mr. Raphael Marino, 92 years old, who sat at the left of the Bishop; the presidents of all our Church's societies; Judge and Mrs. William Murray; the superintendent of the Milford schools, Mr. David I. Davoren, and many others.

After the Milford High School band played the "Star Spangled Banner", Mr. Joseph Mongiat, chairman, presented Representative William P. Di Vitto as Master of Ceremonies. Greetings from the town of Milford were presented to the Sacred Heart by Selectman and School Committeeman Mr. Marco A. Balzarini. District Attorney Alfred Cenedella paid a very high tribute to the Pastor for the completion of the Church, which he called "the beautiful Basilica", and with enthusiasm he inspired the people to support the erection of the new school and convent for the glory of God and the Parish. Lastly, the Pastor addressed the people with a heartfelt message of gratitude and thanks.

The Bishop then gave the most fitting and eloquent address on what was about to occur. He displayed a great trust and confidence in the people of the Sacred Heart Parish. He felt sure that they would shoulder the responsibility in view of their remarkably cooperative spirit as evidenced in the past. "A rich heritage is yours", he said, "that you will pass to your children for future generations".

After the prayers for the blessing of the ground were said, His Excellency took a shovel bearing the Bishop's colors and those of the Sacred Heart and broke the ground.

At the closing of the ceremony, while the Milford High School Band was playing, the Bishop, the clergy and the officials of the Town with the guests, proceeded to the Parish Hall, where a short reception was tendered.

#### **- Opening of the new School [1951]**

On September 5, 1951, the new Sacred Heart Parochial School was opened, with 367 children in attendance. The old school building and convent were dismantled immediately, in order that a beautiful, spacious playground could be provided in front of the new school. This work was done swiftly, and in a short time everything was ready for the children's playground.

- **Dedication of the new School [1952]**

On January 21, 1952, the Most Rev. John J. Wright, Bishop of Worcester, dedicated the Sacred Heart Parochial School. The Bishop was very much impressed and pleased by the beauty, the conveniences and the very modern equipment of the new school and convent. On this occasion, the school children and many parishioners tendered the Bishop a warm reception. His Excellency manifested his admiration in the address he gave at the evening banquet in which he exhorted the people of the Sacred Heart to persevere in their faith and to guard their holy heritage of religious belief and culture.

Besides the Pastor's memorable address, the talk given by Rev. Erminio Lona, the first Stigmatine Pastor of the Sacred Heart stirred up many memories in the older parishioners' hearts.

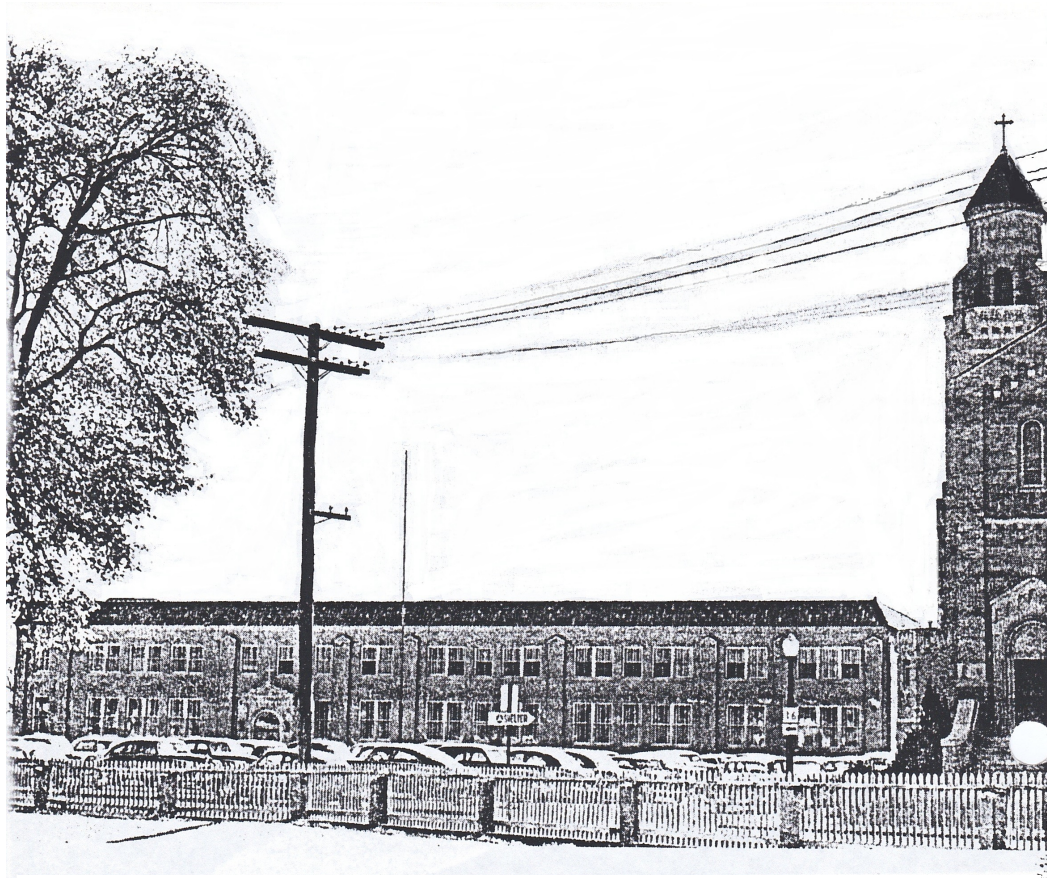
From the Parish Messenger of Monday, January 21, 1952, we read: "There comes a time in the life of every man, woman and child, when it is impossible to fittingly express the gratitude that glows in the human heart, and this is the moment.

Our parishioners have made possible the erection of a beautiful Parochial school, and a so much needed Convent. To you and to all who have contributed in any way, spiritually, financially or morally, each beat of our heart expresses gratitude indeed and profound appreciation. May God bless you and love you now and through all eternity".

The inscription included in the school corner-stone reads, "During the Holy Year nineteen hundred and fifty, the Pontificate of Pius XII, the first year of the reign of our beloved Bishop, Bishop John J. Wright, of our newly erected Diocese of Worcester, permission was granted and ground broken for the erection of our school building for the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, on December 9, 1950".

Father Dalla Porta, on the occasion of the laying of the new school corner-stone, wrote, "The old school building had a long history as a dwelling, a hall and various other uses. The new school will serve for future generations ... a modern, progressive and permanent in nature, it will complement the beauty of our parish Church ... Our good Sisters will have accommodations in the second floor convent. Their years of forbearance for Christ's work in humble living quarters will be compensated by the new building".

On that year, 1952, Fr. Dalla Porta's assignment as Pastor came to end.



Front View of School

- **Fr. Louis Fontana, the new Pastor; debit is reduced [1952]**

When Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta started the construction of the new school building, the Church had an \$81,000.00 debt.

The building of the new school and convent amounted to \$600,000.00, so that, at the beginning of the year 1952, the total debt was \$681,000.00.

During the years 1952, 1953 and 1954, through the untiring efforts of the Pastor, Rev. Louis Fontana, and the wonderful cooperation of the good parishioners, who understood the task facing the Pastor, the debt was reduced, so that, at the end of the year 1954 it was \$558,638.76.

- **Golden Jubilee [1955]**<sup>9</sup>

In late 1954, realizing the parishioners interest in their church and school, the Pastor, Fr. Louis Fontana, called a meeting for a Golden Jubilee celebration to be held in the year 1955.

During the week of June 12, 1955, the Golden Jubilee program was held, which included a Triduum in honor of the Sacred Heart, a Solemn Requiem Mass for parishioners and friends, a Solemn High Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart, and a Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving, and a program of entertainment, which included a variety show, carnival and banquet.

#### **IV. Towards the Diamond Jubilee [1956 – 1980]**

- **Fr. Raymond Dalla Porta's Priestly Golden Jubilee [1957]**

Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta C.S.S. observed a milestone in his life on March 3, 1957, honoring the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood, at a daylong observance.

- **New Rectory [1961]**

In 1961, a new rectory was built to replace the old wooden structure. It included, in addition to living quarters, accommodations for a front office and conference rooms.

- **New Organ [1968]**

A new organ for the upper church was purchased and installed in June of 1968, and was dedicated to the memory of our beloved former Pastor, the Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta.

- **Lower Church renovation; property sale; debt settlement [1973]**

The following years saw the renovation of the lower Church, and the sale of church owned property on Medway Road. At this time, the Church was able to pay the mortgage and all the outstanding debts.

The upper Church was renovated, in accordance to Vatican II, and dedicated on May 27, 1973.

---

<sup>9</sup> More details on Appendix 7.2: Golden Jubilee Booklet.

In accordance with Vatican II, the upper Church was renovated, and on May 27, 1973 was dedicated. Vatican II called for more participation by the laity, with the guidance of the clergy in all programs associated with parish life. These new directives would now have the people and the clergy working together to plan and coordinate all events and celebrations pertaining to the physical, spiritual and social life of the Parish.

People volunteered to become Lectors at Mass to read the Scriptures. Others became Eucharistic Ministers, their duties being to assist the priest in the distribution of the Eucharist. Although our parish has always had a choir of which to be very proud, we now added song leaders at all the Masses, to encourage participation in the sacred music, and a folk group.

- **School closing [1975]**

The year 1975 brought sadness to many with the closing of the Sacred Heart Parish School. In September of the same year, the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish School and St. Mary's Parish School merged, under the direction of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy.

- **Installation of the new Church bells [1978]**

- **Diamond Jubilee Celebration [1980]**



Rev. Albert Azrak, CSS  
Pastor

The Diamond Jubilee was celebrated on November 16, 1980.<sup>10</sup>

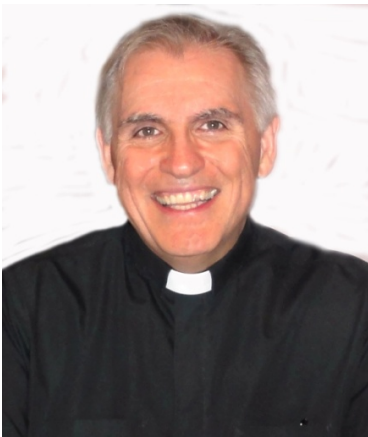
In that occasion, the Pastor was Fr. Albert Azrak, CSS.

---

<sup>10</sup> Further details at Appendix 7.3.



## V. Towards the Centennial [1981 – 2005]



REV. RICHARD A. SCIOLI, CSS  
Current Pastor [1986 – ]

Around the year 1986, Fr. Richard Scioli, CSS was assigned as the new Pastor, by Fr. Joseph Henchey, CSS, the Superior Provincial, and remains as Pastor until nowadays (2024).

In 2005, the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish became a centennial parish!

## VI. Towards the Future [From 2006 on]

### - Associate Pastors

In this 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium era, Fr. Richard Scioli, CSS was assisted first by Fr. Leonard Ferrecchia, CSS (1929 - +2019).

And from the last few years he has been assisted by Fr. Gregory Hoppough, CSS.



REV. LEONARD FERRECCHIA, CSS  
Associate Pastor



REV. GREGORY J. HOPPOUGH, CSS  
Associate Pastor

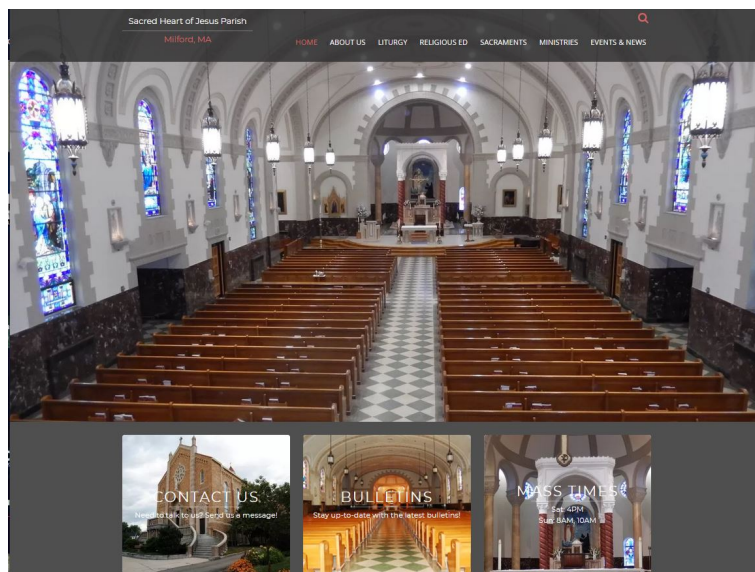


Fr. Richard Scioli, CSS and Fr. Leonard (Lenny) Ferrecchia, CSS next to the Baptismal Pond where both of them were baptized, as they were born in Milford.

#### - Website

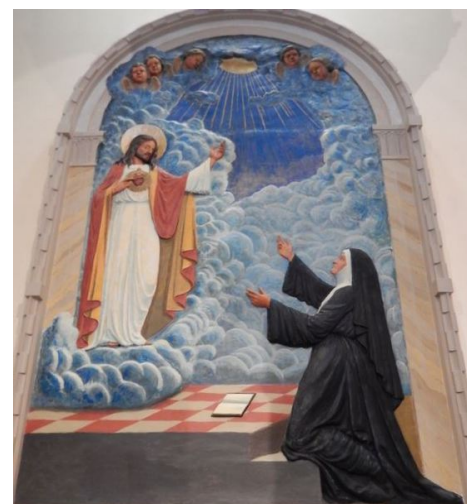
The parish holds a beautiful website at the web address:

<https://sacredheartmilford.org>



- **Church renovations [2016]**

The Church was beautifully renovated in 2016: <sup>11</sup>



---

<sup>11</sup> More pictures in the website, under About Us / Photo Albums / 2016 Renovations  
(<https://sacredheartmilford.org/photoalbums/2016-renovations>)



- The Cemetery

The Bertoni Chapel:

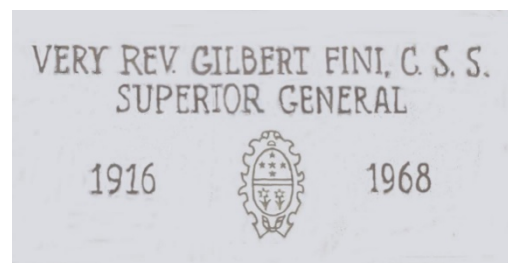




**The Statue of St. Gaspar Bertoni:**





**Inside General View: <sup>12</sup>****Some Tombstones: <sup>13</sup>**

<sup>12</sup> Co-author's note: This picture is posted here in homage to Fr. Leonard (Lenny) Ferrecchia, CSS, who appears here walking inside the cemetery, and kindly gave my husband (Vicente) and I a tour around the Stigmatine places in Massachusetts, in 2014, as we could take pictures for this American Chronicle.

<sup>13</sup> Here there are presented only some of the tombstones; the list of the Stigmatines whose bodies are buried at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery is presented on Appendix 7.4.



14

### Leaving the Cemetery:



---

<sup>14</sup> Co-author's note: Here is our homage to Fr. Joseph Henchey, author of this American Chronicle.

**FINAL WORDS:**

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and Cemetery in Milford hold plenty of our Stigmatine Presence in the United States.

May the present shortage of Stigmatine Priests and Brothers in North America be not a blockage for our legacy continues in Milford and in the whole nation!

*Deus det nobis plures annos venire!*

**May God grant us many more years to come!**



**SOUVENIR BOOKLET**  
of the  
**TENTH ANNIVERSARY**  
of the  
**SACRED HEART CHURCH**  
**MILFORD, MASS.**

---

**Dedicated in Loving Memory to**  
**Miss Elizabeth Supple**

**DEDICATION**

=====

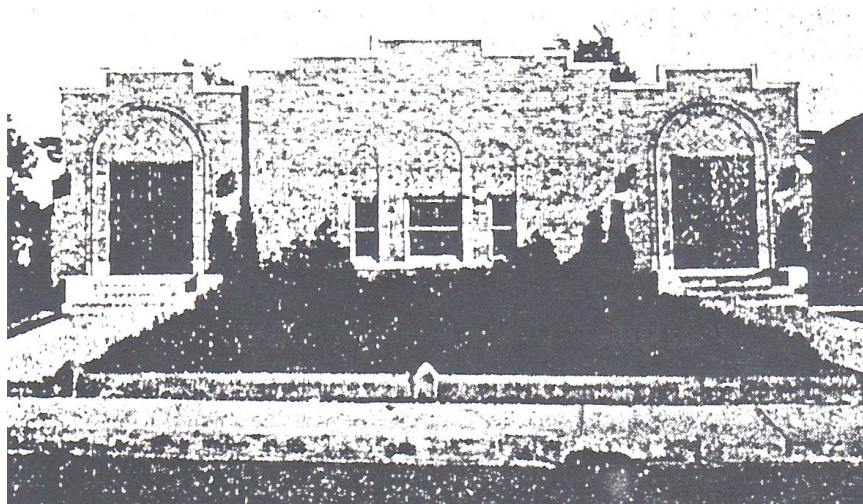
In the week of August 13, 1922, Miss Elizabeth Supple went to her reward. A noble and kindly character, whose generosity knew no bounds. She was the daughter of Mr. Adam and Catherine Supple. Mr. Adam Supple was engaged as a blacksmith and was the father of two priests, Rev. James and Rev. Michael Supple. It was upon the advice of the former that Miss Elizabeth Supple bequeathed the land where on the Sacred Heart of Jesus church now stands. She had but one sister, Mrs. Moria McCormick. Miss Elizabeth Supple was a graduate of Milford High School and devoted most of her time to the studying and teaching of music. May God ever reward her for such kindness and generosity.

## History of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Milford, Mass.

1905

1938

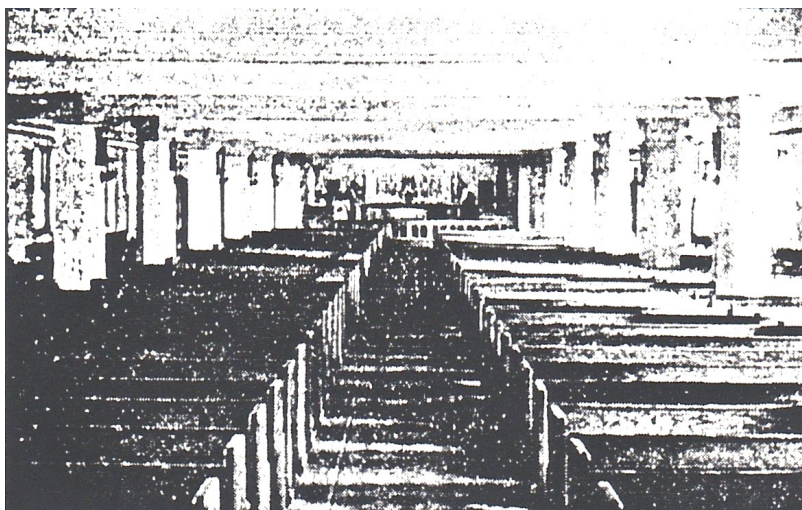
Efforts on the part of a number of Italians of the community of Milford to erect a church in the latter part of the last century are recorded in the Town Annals. The first meeting was held at Town Hall on October 21, 1894. Sanction was granted by Rev. Patrick Cuddihy, then pastor of St. Mary's church, with the approval of the Bishop, Rt. Rev. Thomas D. Beaven. Following the first meeting, funds were appropriated and land was purchased on East Main Street, adjacent to the car barns. Owing to difficulties, the project was abandoned, the land was sold and the money placed in a bank. A second and successful effort for a church was made in 1905, at a meeting held at Town Hall. Previous to the meeting, in the spring of the same year, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Beaven sent Rev. Father Rocco Petrarca to Milford. He conducted services in St. Mary's church and in the meantime worked zealously to secure funds for a church for the Italian populace. On June 10, 1905, the John Miller property of East Main Street, near to the basin, was procured. Services were held there after it was remodeled. A tower and stone front were added, and a marble plaque inserted with the inscription: "*Dei gratia fecit populi auxilio*, Rev. Rochus Petrarca, A.D. 1905". On the eleventh day of June, during the same year, Rev. Fr. Petrarca blessed Miss Gemma D' Aniello and Mr. Anthony Tomaino in wedlock, the first of 1,328 marriages registered to date.



Front of the new Church



Rev. Petrarca, after working indefatigably in behalf of the Italians of Milford, departed on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 1913, and since his departure has been pastor of St. John the Baptist church in Columbus, Ohio. The Rev. Erminio Lona succeeded Rev. Fr. Petrarca on November 7, 1913, and was the first Stigmatine Father to take over the duties of the Italian parish of Milford. Rev. Fr. Lona worked among the Italians for a period of ten years, and with his kind and affable manner did much for the spiritual betterment of the parishioners. It was during this decade that the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy established themselves in Milford. The Ref. Fr. Anthony Tonioli, who went to his reward in September 1925, Rev. Fr. Leo Sella, Rev. Fr. Joseph Nardon, who died in the city of Campinas in Brazil while imparting the benediction with the Most Blessed Sacrament, and Rev. Fr. Emilio Baretella have seen service in Milford during the period in which Rev. Fr. Lona was pastor.



Front of the new Church

In February of 1924, the Rev. Fr. Lona was called to Waltham to direct the preparatory school of young men in training for the priesthood. The insufficient accommodations of the old church and the increased attendance at Sunday Masses soon gave way to a new structure erected during the years in which Rev. Fr. Louis Fontana labored among the Italians. The new church was solemnly inaugurated on Christmas Eve, at the midnight Mass in the year 1927. It is largely through the generosity of Miss Elizabeth Supple that we of Italian extraction may boast of our elegant church and it is but fitting that we dedicate our tenth anniversary in her loving memory and print the memorial inscription at the entrance of the church.

## IN MEMORIAM

**When you enter this church remember Elizabeth C. Supple who generously bequeathed the ground whereon to build it and her brother, Rev. James Supple whose advice she followed. Pray for the repose of their souls.**

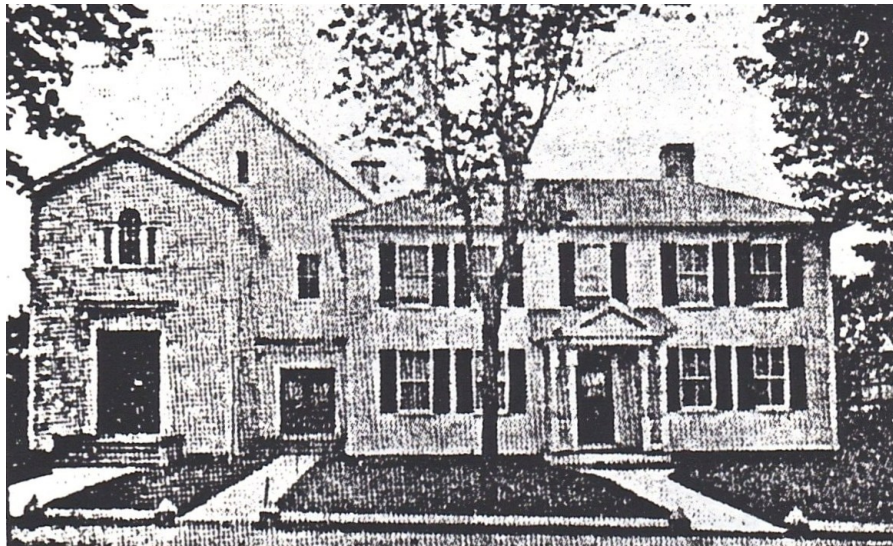
**A. D. MCMXXIII**

But one year elapsed after the new edifice was inaugurated when Rev. Fr. Louis Fontana was called by superiors to White Plains, NY, and at present is pastor of a recently erected church at Timmins, Ontario, in Canada. Rev. Fr. Dalla Porta was pastor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus church in Waltham when called to Milford on Rev. Fr. Fontana's departure. He devoted his time and talent in devising and providing means to defray the mortgage of the newly erected church. Under his supervision, the Garden Hall was established and bowling alleys were constructed in the basement. In the month of March, 1933, Fr. Dalla Porta was transferred to the West Springfield pastorate and the present pastor, Rev. Julius Valentinelli, was chosen as his successor. The construction of the recreational rooms which serve for parish society gatherings was the first accomplishment of Fr. Valentinelli. The tireless pastor, seeing the necessity of a burial ground dauntlessly procured property on Medway Street, and, much to the satisfaction of the parishioners, accomplished nothing less than a miracle in fashioning a cemetery second to none in the vicinity.

The Rev. Fr. Alfred Balestrazzi, Rev. Fr. Zampieri, Rev. Fr. Joseph Costa and Rev. Louis Zuliani have likewise cooperated in the endeavors of the aforementioned pastors in rendering ceaseless service for the stable and unique establishment of the Italian church of Milford.

In terminating this brief account of facts, let us endeavor ever to praise God for the great blessings He has showered upon us, and let our fervent wish be that God bless the priests who have courageously labored for our best interests; and our fervent prayer that we be ever faithful to our church and its teachings.

## SACRED HEART OF JESUS SCHOOL



SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL AND THE CONVENT

On December 26, 1919 at the request of Rev. Father E. Lona, pastor, four Sisters of the Congregation of the Daughters of O. L. of Mercy arrived in Milford: Sister M. Vincenzina, Superior, Sister M. Virginia, Sister M. Patricia, and Sister M. Casimira. They came principally to attend to the religious instruction of the children of the parish. In addition, they taught embroidery, and Italian to those who wished it, and conducted a kindergarten in the lower rooms of the school. They worked with alacrity and saw their efforts rewarded by the numerous attendances of all their classes.

After five years of work in this parish, the Superior, Sister M. Vincenzina was called to Italy and was replaced by Sister M. Amable. Under this Superior, through the untiring zeal of the pastor, Rev. L. Fontana, the first class of the Parochial school was begun on Sept. 6, 1927. There were 41 pupils enrolled. Within two years, the second and third grades were added. During the summer months of 1929, the hall above the three classrooms, which until then had served for entertainments, was converted into three more rooms, thus providing for the fourth, fifth, and six grades. These were added each following year. Improvements were made in the ventilating and heating system by order of the Pastor, Rev. R. Dalla Porta.

At this time, a transfer of pastor and Superior took place. Our present pastor, Rev. J. Valentinelli and Superior, Sr. M. Bridget assumed charge of Church and school, respectively. A serious problem faced the new pastor – to complete the grammar grades, he had to provide two additional rooms. These were built in the summer of

1933. By June 1935, Sacred Heart School was completed with an enrollment of 320 children. The first graduation of 25 pupils was held at the Town Hall, June 12, 1935, Monsignor Doyle delivering a splendid address to the graduates. The following June, there were 33 graduates, the ceremony being held in Church.



REV. JOHN GOLDEN  
CURATE 1936

In September, 1936, the Superior Sister M. Bridget was replaced by Sister M. Antonia. At the close of the scholastic year, the third graduation comprised 37 pupils.

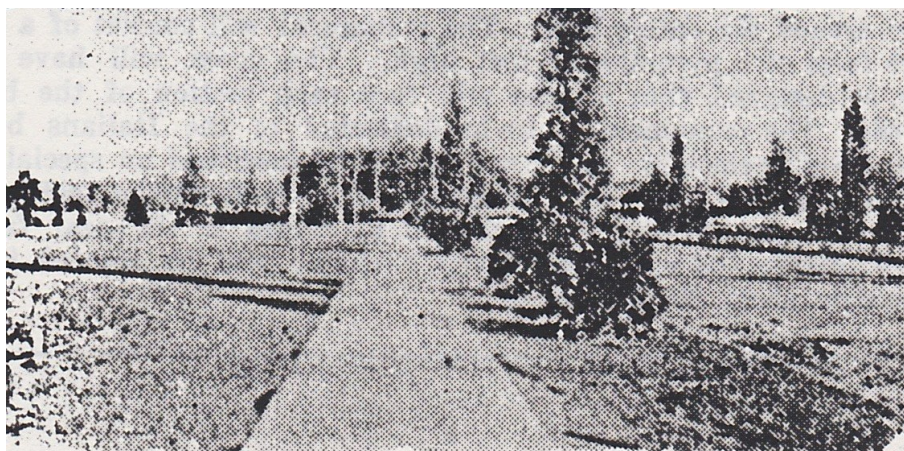
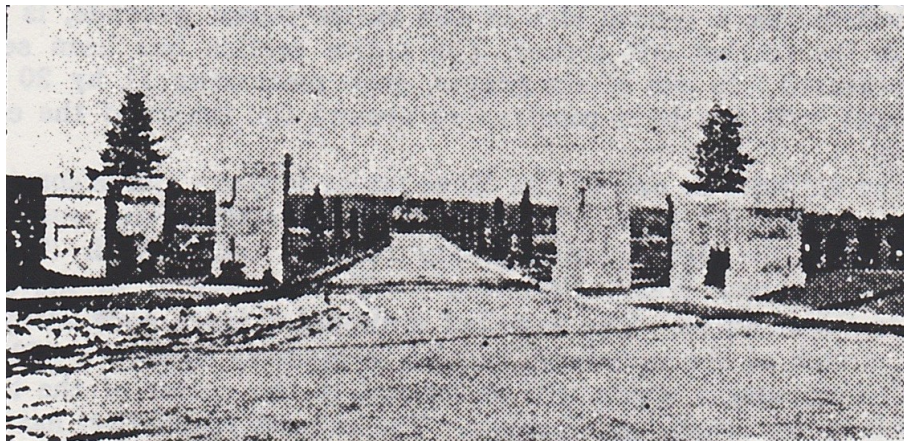
At present, the parochial school has an enrollment of 312 pupils. The children of the public schools are given religious instruction on Tuesdays and Thursdays of every week.



## SACRED HEART OF JESUS CEMETERY

In the evening of May 26, 1937, no opposition was voiced at a public meeting held in the Town Hall on an application of Most Rev. Thomas M. O'Leary, bishop of the Springfield Catholic diocese, to establish a cemetery on about 55 acres of land on the northerly side of Medway Street for Sacred Heart of Jesus Italian parish.

Prior to preparations, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas O'Leary, on a visit to Milford last May, approved of the project and declared that the Italians of Milford should be proud to possess their own cemetery. During the past season, much has been done in making the cemetery one of the foremost in the vicinity. Roads, 18 feet in width have been completed, and Milford granite curbstones have been laid. Evergreen and Maple trees have been planted along both sides of the main road.



NEW SACRED HEART CHURCH CEMETERY



Section one, a typical idea of the entire burial grounds, is situated in the further left corner. The entire section has been seeded and measured into lots of six graves, each measuring 11 by 20 feet. A cement walk has been constructed around the limits of the entire section.

The entrance is one of the three major projects and is constructed in semi-circular form. There will be a golden chain suspended from two of the eight granite pillars recently constructed. The inscription, "*Sacred Heart Cemetery*", will be imbedded in the grace near to the entrance. The so-called millionaire fence runs along the front stretch of the cemetery, parallel to Medway Street for 450 feet.

The monument which will be located in the center of the burial grounds is of future undertaking. The cement foundation has been made and at present a circular knoll has been laid out with curb-stones around the entire base. The monument will consist of a cross in the form of a pyramid, 18 feet high. The cross will have four faces, so designed, that a cross will face each section of the burial grounds. The monument is to be dedicated to the Italians buried at St. Mary's cemetery. Their names will be inscribed on special durable paper place in an urn, conserved in a vault at the foot of the monument. An offering for such will be raised in the near future. At the further end of the cemetery, a chapel will be erected to accommodate about 20 persons.

## HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

As it can be seen in the Annals of this Town, efforts to establish a Church for the Italians were made early in 1894. The first official meeting was held at the Milford Town Hall on October 21, 1894, with the approval of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas D. Beaven, and with the gracious encouragement of St. Mary's Pastor, Rev. Patrick Cuddihy. Following this meeting, enough money was collected to purchase some land, near the Car barn; but this location was discarded, the land sold and the money from this sale deposited in the Bank.

A second meeting was held in 1905, this time presided by a very zealous Priest, Fr. Rocco Petrarca, who, for some time, was holding the religious services for the Italians in St. Mary's Church. On June 10, 1905, the John Miller property on East Main was bought, and in a short time was remodeled and arranged for religious services; but, after about four years, with the increasing number of Italians attending the services, this small structure was enlarged and a granite tower was erected in the front: this fortunately made it impossible to add to the building in the future.

This little church was the cradle of the Parish of today. In adverse conditions, Fr. Petrarca carried on his priestly work, sowing the seeds for the harvest he was not going to reap, because the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, 1913 he left Milford to work with more success in another field, as Pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio, where he is still very active.

To Priest's Rectory at this time and for many more years was the second floor of the Sanctuary of the church ... and it was fortunate that none of the priests was a six footer ... because he would not have been able to live there without brushing the ceiling with his hair.



Fr. Rocco Petrarca  
Founder and Pastor of First Parish

## STIGMATINE FATHERS COME TO MILFORD

Fr. Erminio Lona was the successor of Fr. Petrarca and the first Pastor of the Stigmatine Fathers.

Fr. Lona did not land in a bed of roses ... but, with his proverbial calm, kindness and perseverance, working for the long years, won the esteem and affection of all the Italians of Milford. He had several worthy Curates, who shared his work: Fr. Anthony Toniolli, Fr. Leo Sella, and Fr. Emilio Baretella. It was Fr. Lona who received the Daughters of O. L. of Mercy in our Parish, thus planting the seeds of our Parochial School. In 1924, the Superior of the Stigmatine Fathers called Fr. Lona to a more delicate work, the direction of our Students in Waltham, where lay the hopes of our Congregation in America.



Fr. Erminio Lona



Fr. Fontana

Fr. Lona was succeeded by a very young and energetic priest, Fr. Louis Fontana. It was his privilege to take advantage of the generosity of Miss Elizabeth C. Supple and her brother, Rev. James Supple, who donated to the Italian Parish their home and land, by erecting the spacious and beautiful basements, where on the Italians were able to hold their religious services in a dignified manner. He had a vision of the future development of our Parish and that basement was none too large.

## STIGMATINE FATHERS COME TO MILFORD

Another field of activity for Fr. Valentinelli was the Garden Theatre, which, if it did not bring so much revenue to the church, provided plenty of fun to the youngsters of the parish. Fr. Joseph Costa and Fr. Louis Zuliani were sharing the work with Fr. Julius, and, in 1940, Fr. Victor De Michei came to Milford, to stay up to the present time.

Early in the year 1941, Fr. Valentinelli had all plans ready for the new church, but the work, already started, was stopped abruptly by the war; so, in 1942, he decided to spend his talents as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army, where he is still serving at present.



Fr. John P. Stanton



Fr. Victor De Michei

At this time, Fr. Paul Zanini took over the parish for a few months, as "Acting Pastor", with Fr. Camilus Santini as a curate. In the short time of his residence in Milford, he won the esteem of everybody, without exception, by the zeal and enthusiasm, which accompanied all his actions. It was very unfortunate for this people that his health did not allow him to stay much longer.

In June 1943, Fr. Raymond Dalla Porta was sent by his superiors back to his old friends, and on him fell the task of erecting the new church. After three years of hard saving, he had about \$100,000 to start the building, which cost over \$300,000. The Right Rev. Bishop granted the so anxiously sought permission to go ahead, and on March 18, 1946 the work was started.



## STIGMATINE FATHERS COME TO MILFORD

Just after one year that he saw his dream become a reality, he was transferred by his superiors to White Plains, and now he is pastor in Timmins, Ontario, where he has erected a new church and rectory.

On the departure of Fr. Fontana, Fr. Raymond Dalla Porta took over the painful duty of scaling down the debt, during those years of depression; it was a difficult task, but he did not neglect the young people for the lack of money; he kept adding a class every year to the newly erected school and provided the bowling alleys in the basement of the old church, to keep in touch with the young and old alike.

Assisting Fr. Dalla Porta in his work were Fr. Giuseppe Nardon, Fr. Alfred Ballestrazzi, now both dead, and Fr. Humbert Zampieri.



Fr. Valentinelli



Fr. Paul Zanini

In

1933, Fr. Dalla Porta was transferred to White Plains, and to take his place was sent Fr. Julius Valentinelli. His first ambitious project was to give the Italians of Milford a cemetery of their own. It was on May 26, 1937 that, at a meeting in the Town Hall, was voted to establish a cemetery for the Italians in Medway Road. Immediately after, with the cooperation of the parishioners, the beautiful cemetery was developed, of which the Italians of this town may justly be proud. Only God knows the hours of intelligent and even manual work that Fr. Valentinelli and his curates, Fr. John Golden and Fr. Louis Ecker, have spent to give us this model cemetery; this will be the best

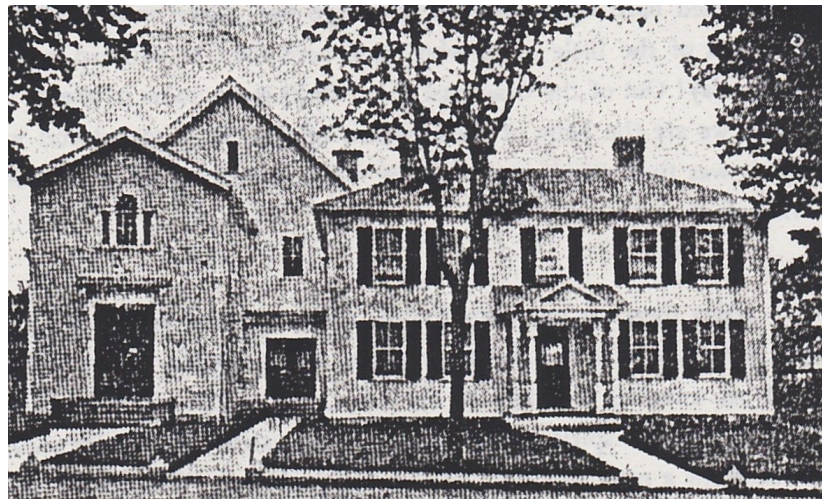


monument, which will make them to be remembered and blessed by the present and future generations.

### **HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL (*continued*)**

Finally, in 1935 their many sacrifices were rewarded when the first Eighth Grade Graduation took place with thirty-five stalwart students, who had valiantly weathered every storm to reach this goal.

From then on, hundreds of children have had the golden opportunity to profit by a parochial school training made possible through the efforts of our zealous priest, who do all to give the children a Catholic Education. Credit must also be given to parents, who know the obligation imposed upon them of the necessity to see to it, that their children receive an education which does not end with time, but one that prepares them for life and eternity.



Present Sacred Heart School

The term “Catholic Education” is used to describe the ideal training that Catholic schools aspire to give. Such an education aims to make a contribution to man’s physical, intellectual, moral, social, and civic development.

Pope Pius XI, of happy memory, has said: “Since education consists essentially in preparing man for what he must be and for what he must do here below, in order to attain the sublime end for which he was created, it is clear that there can be no true education which is not wholly directed to man’s last end. Indeed, a good Catholic, precisely because of his Catholic principles, makes the better citizen, attached to his

country, and loyally submissive to constituted civil authority in every legitimate form of government”.

### **Note of Thanks from Pastor**



It is with sentiments of profound gratitude that I write these few words. Gratitude for your loyalty, your generosity and your sacrifices, which all combined built the new church.

Today, more so than ever, may it be said that the little grain of mustard-seed, planted here some forty-six years ago, has grown into a noble tree. How the hearts of the little band, who came here then to worship, must rejoice to see this day! Out of the dead past their voices speak to us in silence and remind us that we are the heirs of their patient efforts. They sowed and we are reaping. It was their steadfastness in the Faith, which enriched the soil that now brings forth such noble fruit.

Today, then, for me, your pastor, and your curates, is a day of glory. For you, parishioners, it is a day of triumph. For today, the Italian Catholic of Milford has unveiled not only to the town, but to the entire state, his undying faith in God, his spirit of generosity and of sacrifice. For today, each one of you can present a most beautiful church and truly say: “Behold my church”.

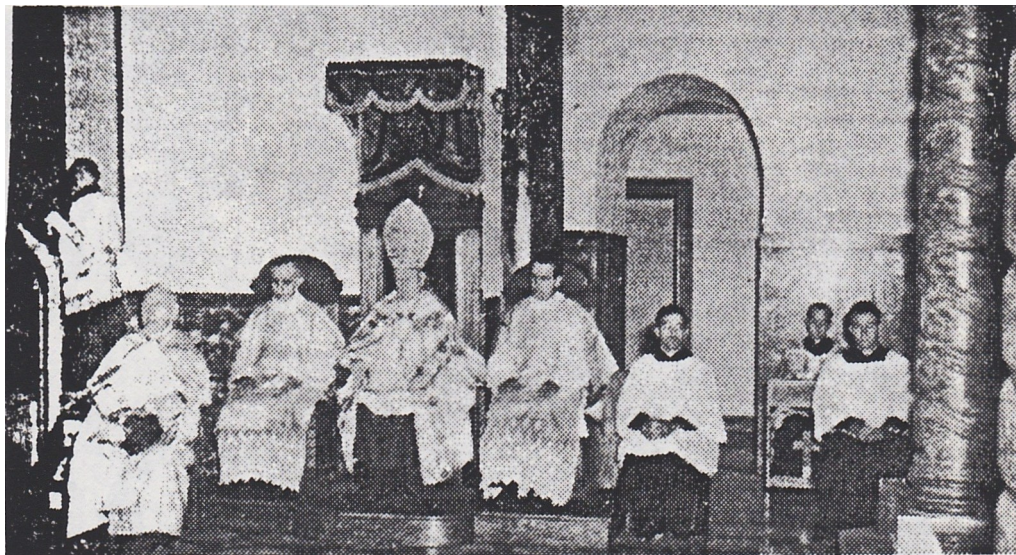
Here, then, through the length and breadth of nave and transept, from the silent hearts of a prayerful people, and from the deep diapason of the organ, shall arise the same hymn of praise, the same silent voice of adoration which resounded through the old wooden church years ago.

To the Sacred Heart of Jesus is our glorious temple dedicated. To Him we offer it with the homage of our fidelity and eternal trust. Accept, O God, the offering of Thy children. And may Thy Holy Presence remain here forever to bless and sanctify Thy sons and daughters who have built this church in Thine honor.

## Highlights of Dedication

"In building this beautiful temple, the Italian people have erected not only a tower of worship for themselves, but a symbol of duty to God for everyone to see. I thank you and congratulate you for all the good work, fine spirit and cooperation in building this beautiful house of God, who will reward even those who will dedicate but a cup of cold water in His name."

Thus, on the morning of July twentieth, spoke Right Reverend Thomas M. O'Leary, Bishop of Springfield, in dedicating our new and beautiful church.



Bishop assisting at Dedication

On that morning, the dreams and sacrifices of thousands were fulfilled and rewarded. For since the year 1901, when the Sacred Heart of Jesus parish had a modest beginning in a small wooden structure, the Italian population envisioned the day when they would have a majestic edifice, which would be a proof of the love to their religion and generosity.

On that day, new chapters were written in both the town and church histories by the daylong event. The new church proudly takes its place among the many beautiful churches in this section of the country.

Previously to the dedicatory Mass, the Bishop blessed the Cornerstone at a ceremony outside the church, after which a bronze box containing the history of the church, building fund donors and other data were sealed into the church corner. Following this, the Bishop blessed the interior of the church.



The blessing of the altar by the Bishop and his assistants was followed by a solemn high Mass in which the Bishop was assisted by fourteen priests, from Springfield, Pittsfield, Worcester, Lynn, Waltham, Wellesley and Milford. Also present for the ceremonies were thirty Stigmatine Seminarians from Wellesley who served at the Mass.

During the Mass, which was sung by the Very Reverend Paul V. Daly, Provincial of the Stigmatine Fathers, the Bishop, attired in his precious mitre and robes, was seated in a throne at the left of the altar, assisted by Right Reverend John P. Phelan, Vicar General of the Diocese.



Blessing of Cornerstone

The church choir, under the direction of Miss Ada Di Giannantonio and with Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta at the organ, sang the Mass, *Benedicamus Domino*, in four voices, by the well known composer Perosi.

Before the Bishop's inspiring sermon, Father Dalla Porta, pastor of the church, spoke to the parishioners, thanking them for their loyal support that made possible the construction of the new church.



In the afternoon, the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class of 175 children and adults. Then, followed solemn benediction with Monsignor Phelan officiating and the Bishop assisting from his throne and attended by 20 priests from surrounding towns.

In the evening, at 7:30, the day's events were brought to a close, with an organ recital given by Professor Robert K. Love, well known organist from Boston. At the conclusion of the concert, benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given.

Well then may we say: We give Three thanks, O God, for this day of days.

### **Description of the New Church**

The Church, as now completed, is one of the outstanding edifices in this section of Massachusetts. It is constructed of face brick and limestone trim, in Romanesque style, with a beautiful approach in the form of a monumental pink Milford granite staircase. The main Church doors are constructed of heavy oak and are finished in an antique tone.

The high Lombard Tower can be seen from outlying distances. The Tower is unique and flanked with flying buttresses and arches thus creating an impressive landmark in this area. The roof of the Church and Tower is of Mission tile, in a variegated red blend and harmonizes with the facades.

The interior of the Church is designed beautifully, in a decorative stone and plaster and richly colored marble wainscoting and trim throughout the Church. The conservation of space by the elimination of interior columns is quite a departure from the usual Churches, thus affording sufficient light through large stained glass windows, and eliminates any obstruction in the Nave. The supporting trusses are without cords, so that it does not detract from the fullness of the entire richly ornamented vaulted ceiling and the elaborately designed Sanctuary is visible from all parts of the Church.

Upon entering this imposing Romanesque interior, one is impressed with the beautiful marble colonnade in the Sanctuary, terminating in a series of arches, and the vaulted, richly decorated ceiling.



## **The Sacred Heart School-Convent**

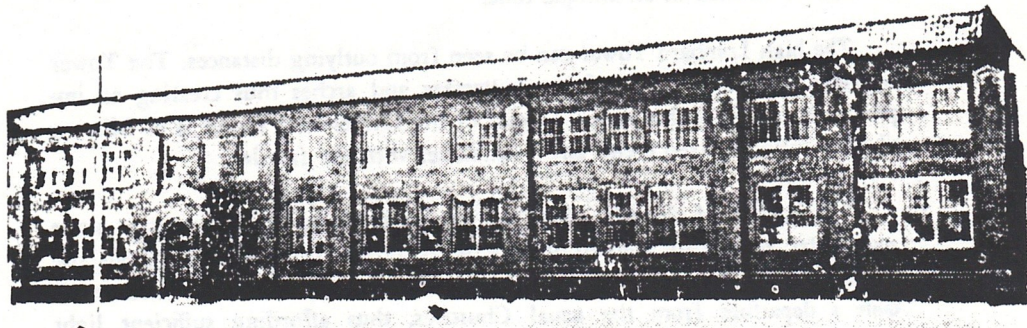
Dedicated to the Memory of the Young

Men of The

## **SACRED HEART PARISH**

Milford, Massachusetts

Who Made the Supreme Sacrifice in the World War II  
1941 – 1945



Rev. Raymond S. Dalla Porta  
Pastor

Anthony J. De Pace  
Archiver

MOST REVEREND JOHN J. WRIGHT D. D.

Bishop of Worcester

Dedicated Monday, January 21, 1952





## In Appreciation

There comes a time in the life of every man, woman and child, when it is impossible to fittingly express the gratitude that blows in the human heart, at this moment, such is ours.

Our Parishioners have made possible the erection of a beautiful parochial school and so much needed convent.

To you and to all who have contributed in any way, spiritually, financially or morally, each beat of our heart expresses deep gratitude and appreciation.

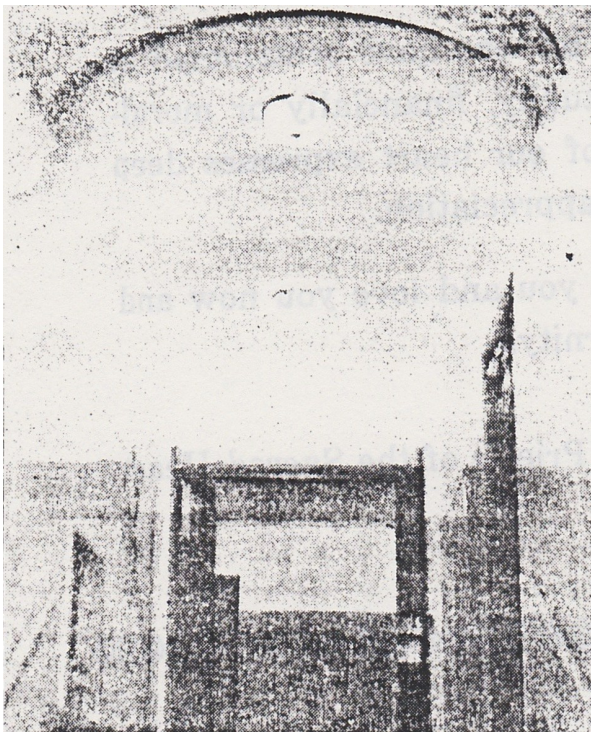
May God bless you and love you now and through all eternity.

The Priests of the Sacred Heart





Entrance of the School



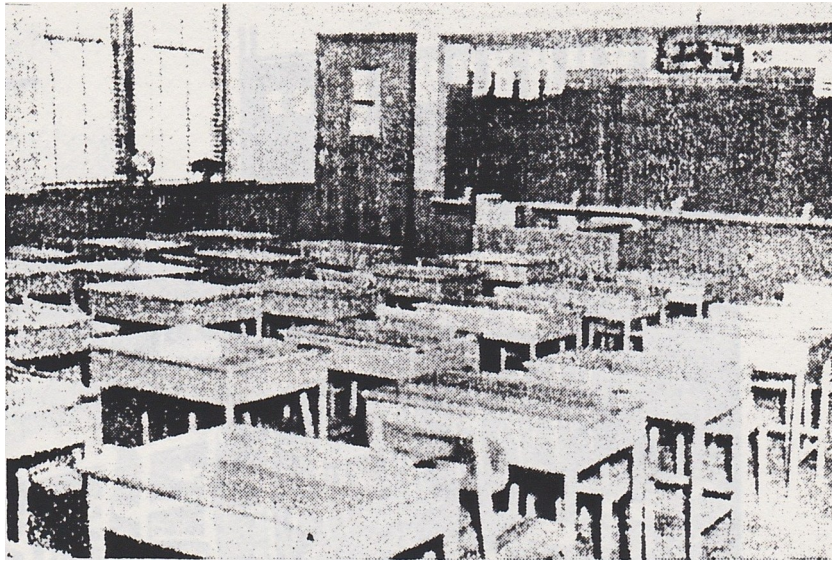
Entrance and Vestibule

## The Sacred Heart School And Convent Building

The exterior of the building is a very imposing edifice erected with the same kind of bricks and line stone used in the church, so that the two buildings are perfectly matched. Upon entering the doors of the school, at a glance one captures the beauty of the colorful terrazzo, the five foot marble wall and the Bishop's coat-of-arms directly ahead.

To the right of the main entrance are the office, the health room, the eighth seventh and sixth grade classrooms. To the left are the library and store room. Across the corridor on the right are: Grades two, third, four and five. On this side also are the two lavatory rooms with the most modern equipment.

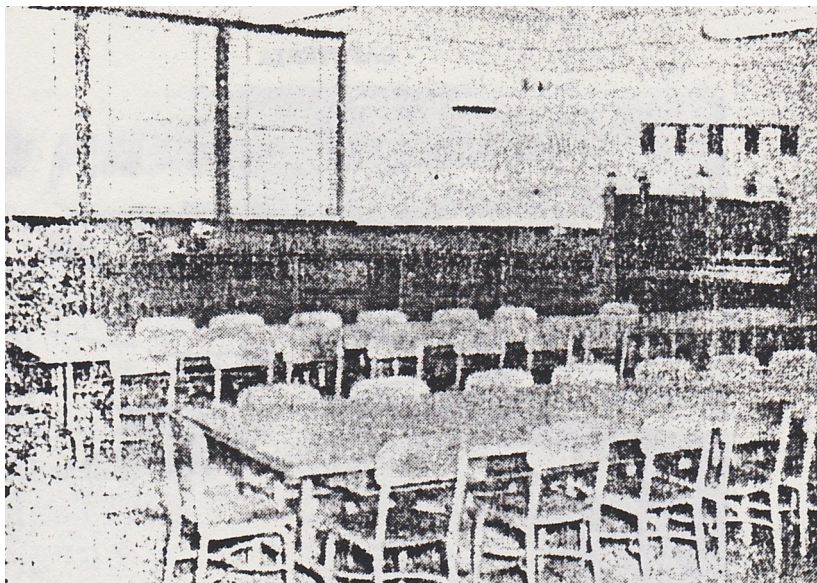




Classroom

On the right wing of the building, you will find the pre-primary room ... a little heaven for the small children, the most attractive of all the classrooms.

All the classrooms walls are of nile green stucco, with green kali-???<sup>1</sup> base; the ceilings are covered with acoustic tiles and from the pillars<sup>2</sup> a flood of light spreads from very modern fluorescent light bulbs. The floors are covered with asphalt, or terrazzo. Fireproof doors are throughout the building.



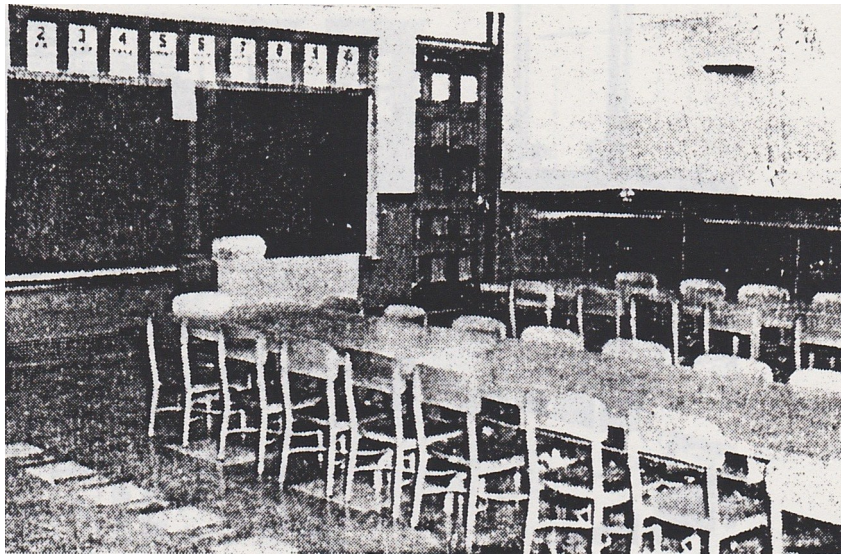
Kindergarten

---

<sup>1</sup> The original typed document is unreadable at this point.

<sup>2</sup> Not sure about this word, as the original typed document is quite unreadable at this point.

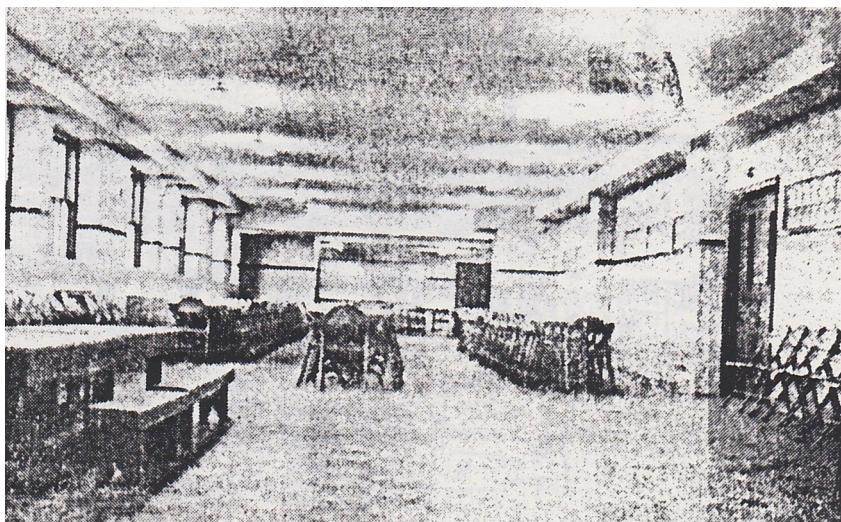




Kindergarten

In the school basement, there is a spacious cafeteria, where over xxx people may be served comfortably at one time; at the end of the cafeteria there is a kitchen, equipped with the up-to-date electric appliances, as dish washer, potato peeler, slicing machine, electric range, etc. The walls of the kitchen are all tile, and ceiling aluminum.

On the opposite side, there are two club rooms, two stock rooms and lavatories for men and women.



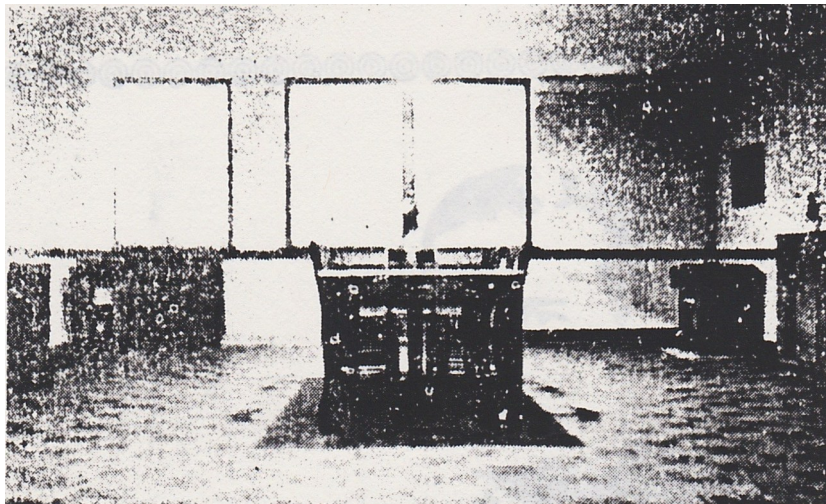
Cafeteria



The convent is above the school, with an entrance on the west side of the building. The first two rooms are the music room and the parlor. The Superior's suite of rooms are on the left side of the robe closet. Off the lower end of the main corridor are the bathroom, laundry, pantry, kitchen and refectory.

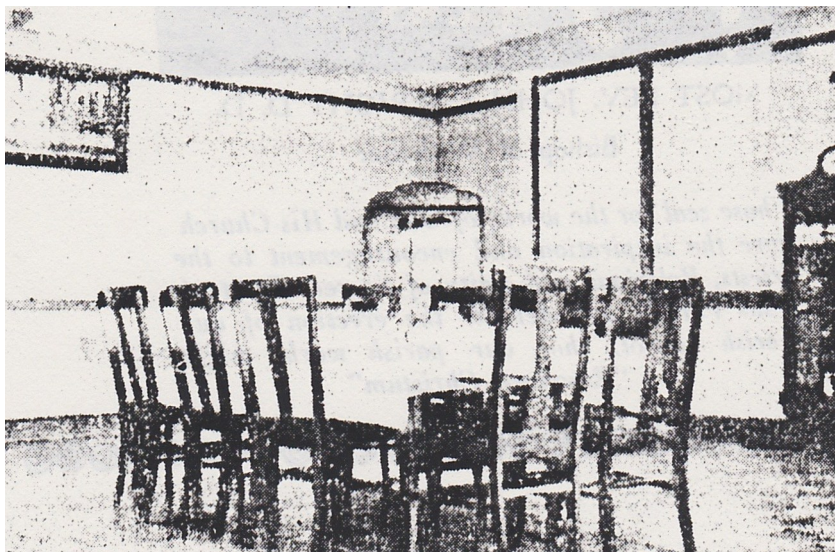
On the left side of the main corridor are the community room infirmary, wardrobe, linen closets and trunk room.

The community room and the dining room have the walls at light blue stucco, with oak trimming and indirect lightning.



Dining room

A large veranda, with majolica tile floor, just outside the Refectory, provides the Sisters with a healthy recreation place for the summer season.



Community room



MOST REVEREND JOHN J. WRIGHT D. D.

Bishop of Worcester

*Whose zeal for the works of God and His Church  
gave the inspiration and encouragement to the  
Priests, Religious and Laity of Sacred Heart of  
Jesus Parish to undertake the erection of our  
parish school, that our parish works might*

*"Resonare Christum"*





# **GOLDEN JUBILEE**

OF THE

# **SACRED HEART PARISH**



**MILFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**1905 - 1955**



**His Holiness**

**Pope Pius XII**

SEGRETERIA DI STATO DI SUA SANTITÀ

March 31, 1955

Reverend Louis Fontana

Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, 5 East Main Street, Milford, Mass.

Holy Father on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the founding of the Sacred Heart Parish, Milford, Massachusetts, cordially imparts to the Pastor and the Faithful His Paternal Apostolic Blessing in pledge of copious divine favors.

Dell'Acqua, Substitute



**MOST REVEREND JOHN J. WRIGHT, D.D.**  
**Bishop of Worcester**

To the clergy and parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish:

The Golden Jubilee of the parish gives me a welcome opportunity to salute the priests and people of this most flourishing spiritual family within our diocese. Under the leadership of the Stigmatine Fathers, the generous Italian speaking people of Milford have built a church which attracts universal admiration and which is among the most beautiful churches in this part of the country. The parish school, entrusted to the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, is another monument to the faith, generosity and loyalty of the parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish.

These material buildings, impressive as they are, would be without meaning were it not for the spiritual vitality which the parish constantly manifests. It has been my happiness more than once to come to the parish for ordinations, confirmations, Holy Name Society meetings and like events. On every occasion I leave inspired by the evidences that the fifty years of organized parish life among you have resulted in the growth of an enviable parish spirit. It reveals itself in the music, the friendliness of the people and the intensity truth which the prayers are recited by the congregation.

I join with you in thanking God for the vision of your ancestors, the graces accorded the present generation of parishioners and the rich harvest of blessings yet to be which is promised in the fidelity of your children. May God bless all those who have worked hard to make possible the rejoicings of the jubilee!

With kindest remembrance and prayerful best wishes, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ

*Rev. John J. Wright*

Bishop of Worcester





Venerable Gaspar Bertoni

**1777 – 1853**

**FOUNDER OF THE STIGMATINE FATHERS**

After spending an angelic childhood under the watchful and loving care of a holy mother, Gaspar listened to the voice of God which beckoned him to the priesthood. One day his pastor said to him, “You’ll be the Missionary of the youth of the parish”, and at these words Gaspar’s face lit up with a heavenly radiance, for he saw in them the form of the apostolate to which Providence was calling him and which was so much in conformity with the aspirations.

As a missionary of youth he was unflagging in the extraordinary activity of his manifold zeal, permeated always by the ardor of intense spirituality. This was true in every instance, whether with the Marian Societies which he was the first to establish in Verona, his native city, or with the School he opened and which subsequently produced some of the most outstanding men of the day, or with the foundation of the



Congregation of the Stigmatine Fathers for the purpose of perpetuating the extending his holy undertaking. But that which most arouses our wonder in the Servant of God is to behold so much activity in a life plagued by continual sufferings, which made him truly a copy of the Crucified Savior.

He underwent more than 200 surgical operations without showing any sign of impatience, not ever a murmur, nor a word which would indicate weariness or rebellion. "God be praised. Thy will be done!" were the noteworthy expressions of this soul, happy in its sufferings. Only once, during an operation, when a bistoury in his leg was pierced, were tears seen trickling down his face, even then he begged pardon for this show of weakness.

He looked on suffering as "the school of the Good God".

He always had, even during the most trying periods of sickness, some gesture or joke to amuse his associates and visits.

Unmindful of his own pains, he was sympathetic towards those of others, causing all who consulted him, Bishops and Magistrate, priests and lay people, to admire the heavenly wisdom of counsels and to attest unanimously to the sanctity of this marvelous God.

The spiritual character of Gaspar Bertoni can be summed as "filial and confident abandonment into the hands of God, even in the most trying circumstances of life". His saintly day took place in Verona (Italy) at the age of 76, June 12, 1953.

The cause of Father Bertoni's canonization is been rending in Rome. From the humble beginnings of a single xxx and brother giving assistance to the Founder, the Stigmatine Fathers have now throughout the world so that their number, to be found in Italy, Germany, United States, Brazil, China, Canada, Marianas Islands and Siam.



Very Reverend Dennis Martinis, C.P.S., D.D.

**Superior General**

Curia Generalizia, Padri Stimatini  
Vila Mazzarino No. 16, Rome, Italy

May 25, 1955

Dear Father Fontana:

I have learned that the Sacred Heart Parish in Milford is about to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of its Foundation, and hasten to extend to you, as its Pastor, to your Assistants, as well as to the Societies and Parishioners, my most sincere congratulations.

The history of this Parish is indeed replete with vicissitudes of humble beginnings, hardship, general sacrifices, dogged perseverance and crowned success; in which vicissitudes both the Priests and the Parishioners have their share. The completely finished Sacred Heart Church and the beautiful new School stand as splendid testimony of accomplishment, of cooperation of the Parishioners with their Priests, and what is more important, of the living faith of our Italian members of the Sacred Heart Parish.

A great deal, indeed, has been accomplished over the past fifty years and I feel that God has made manifest His blessings upon us. I am confident that, under the guidance of His Providence, with the continued generosity and sacrifices of the good Parishioners, the old debts will be cleared and the great work carried so far along the road to completion will soon reach its glorious ultimatum.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus reward abundantly the good Italian people of Milford, who have made all this possible and bring them ever closer to Himself.

Devoutly yours in Our Lord,

Rev. Dionysius Martinis

Very Rev. Dionysius Martinis, CPS

Superior General



VERY REVEREND JOHN F GOLDEN, C.P.S.

**Provincial of North American Province**

STIGMATINE FATHERS

Provincial Headquarters

302 Maple Street – Springfield 5, Mass.

April 29, 1955

Rev. Louis Fontana, C.P.S.  
Sacred Heart Church  
5 East Main Street  
Milford, Massachusetts

I rejoice with you, our fellow Stigmatines, the Daughters of Mercy and the parishioners on the occasion of this Jubilee Celebration.

A parish, like every living organization, traces its origin to a life-source. Someone's ideal devised the plan; another's hand planted the seed. Prayer, sacrifice and dedication molded the grandeur of the majestic edifices dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This captivating grandeur is a genuine gauge that measures the spirit of the indomitable courage of its founders.

In the name of your fellow Stigmatines, it is my sincere wish that this spirit permeate ever-increasingly in the souls pledged to God, whose church and school at Milford attest so magnificently to His Kingdom on earth.

Sincerely in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I am

*V. Rev. John F. Golden, C.P.S.*

Provincial Stigmatine Father



## PARISH PRIESTS

SACRED HEART CHURCH  
5 East Main Street  
Milford, Massachusetts

May 15, 1955

My dear Parishioners,

This year we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the erection of our parish. May I invite you to read our parish history from the pages in this Golden Jubilee Souvenir Booklet. It contains the story of the parish's early days, an account of the many hardships, the humble beginnings, and the sacrifices of the priests and people who always had the will to forge ahead and succeed.

Then, stop for a few minutes and take a look at the present church, school, and grounds. It is something for which we can be thankful and justly proud. Yes, what we have today is the result of untold sacrifices made by men and women of great faith and love for God and their parish.

May their example inspire the coming generation to do even bigger and better things. And while we all humbly thank God for His blessings, permit your pastor and priests to pay tribute for their stupendous achievements to the former pastor and priest and to all faithful parishioners, living and dead. May we, animated by the same spirit, continue their work for the greater glory of God and the good of our parish.

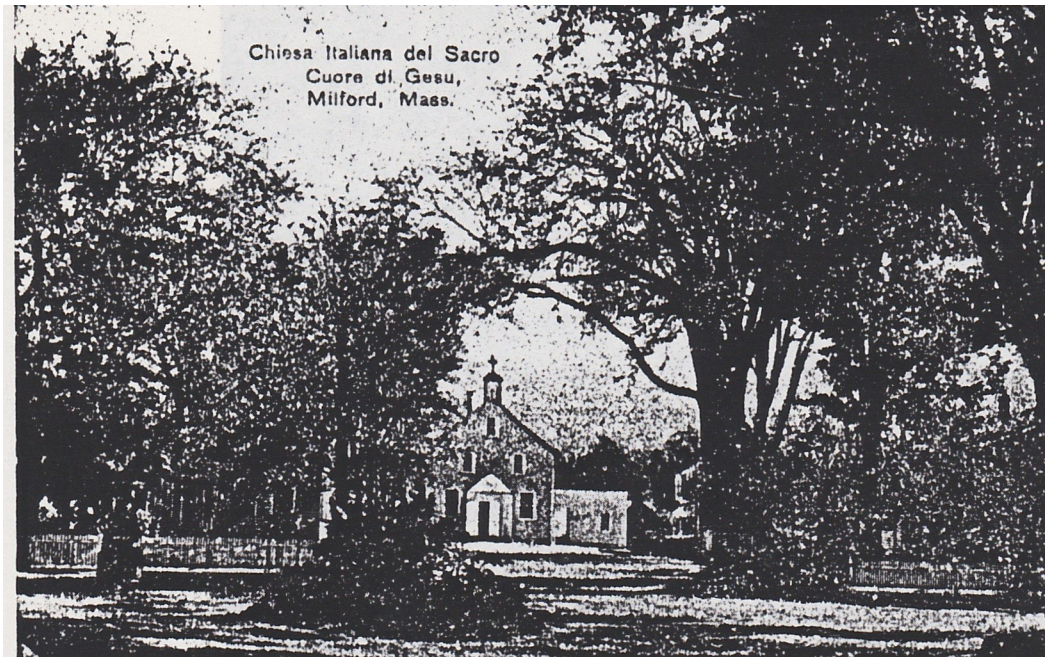
Your devoted pastor and priests,

Rev. Louis Fontana, C.P.S., P.P.

Rev. Victor DeMichei, C.P.S.

Rev. Angelo DaPrai, C.P.S.





*First Church*

## History of the Sacred Heart Church Parish

Milford, Massachusetts

### **1880 – The Early Beginning - 1890**

In the year 1880, Antonio Lazzari settled in Braggville. Carlo Ferrari, his brother-in-law, lived with him. A few years later, Carlo's wife, Mariannina Lazzari Ferrari, arrived in America. Mr. and Mrs. Ferrari settled in the Plains. Mrs. Mariannina Ferrari, religious and courageous, soon became a friend of Miss Elizabeth Supple, later our great benefactor, and endeared herself to the Murphys, Ryans Callahans and the Quirks.

A few years later, a small group of Italian-speaking women – Mariannina Ferrari, Giovanna Riva, Maria Cenedella, decided to call an Italian-speaking priest to Milford from Boston.

A collection was taken up for this purpose, and Mr. Giacomo Cenedella secured a Franciscan Priest from St. Leonard's Monastery, North End, Boston.

The first Mass in Milford for the Italian people was celebrated in 1890 in the Stone Castle on Read Street. A group of men sang the Mass and they were called the "Veronesi" group, including Angelo Givani, the two Manzani brothers and Silvio Rudari.

At the Mass, the priest gave a sermon, which nowadays could be called a prophecy: among other things, he said: "In the heart of an Italian, the Catholic Religion will never die. Keep up your good work and pray that someday you may have a monument in this town of which the Italians will be most proud".

From that small but fervent and enthusiastic beginning, we have today, sixty-five years later, a most beautiful Church, a School which is the admiration of the whole state, a Convent equal to none, and a very well-kept cemetery.

Certainly, great credit must be given to the Italians of Milford for their many achievements, for the spirit they put into their work for the Church, and for their attachment to their priests.

### **1894 – Italian Pioneers – 1905**

#### **First Attempts**

Active efforts on the part of the Italian-speaking people of Milford to have a Church of their own, were started on October 21, 1894, when a meeting was held in the Town Hall called by Giacomo Cenedella, Raphael Marino, Leopoldo Castiglione, Giovanni Aspesi, Pietro Cristani, Daniele Toselli, Giovanni Zorzi, Angelo Donizoni, Bonfiglio Perini, and Cesare Riva.

Mr. Raphael Marino called the meeting to order, and a permanent organization was effected with Mr. Cenedella as president and Mr. Marino as secretary.

The Committee had previously received the sanction of Rev. Patrick Cuddihy, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Milford, to proceed with plans, the same to be subject to the approval of Most Rev. Thomas D. Beaven, Bishop of Springfield.

Funds were solicited, and the land near the street-railway car barn on East Main Street was acquired. This was before Mead Street was laid out. Title to the property came from Samuel W. Heywood to Raphael Marino, Giacomo Cenedella, Giacomo Milani and Nicola Morcone. The deed was dated May 31, 1895, and recorded on August 17, 1895 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Book 1481, Page 455.

Under date of August 15, 1895, the above-mentioned four individuals gave to Elizabeth R. Hayden a mortgage of this property of \$100.00. This mortgage was recorded on August 19, 1895 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Book 1478, Page 500. This mortgage was discharged by discharge dated January 1, 1896, and recorded on January 3, 1896 in Book 1496, Page 16. By deed dated April 3, 1900, Raphael Marino,

Giacomo Cenedella and Nicola Morcone conveyed the above-mentioned real estate to the Milford, Holliston and Framingham Street Railway Company. Said deed was recorded April 6, 1900 with the Worcester Registry of Deeds, Book 1644, Page 314. The deed was not signed by Mr. Milani and the wives of Mr. Marino, Mr. Cenedella and Mr. Morcone signed by marks.



*Second Church*

Under date of May 7, 1901, there was deposited in the Milford Savings Bank, account # 24409, in the name of Raphael Marino, Giacomo Cenedella and Nicola Morcone, the sum of \$473.47; this account was closed on June 10, 1905 by the payment of \$539.19.

### **1905 – Rev. Rocco Petrarca – 1913**

#### **First Pastor**

Early in the year 1905, Most Rev. Tomas D. Beaven, Bishop of Springfield, sent Rev. Rocco Petrarca to Milford to care for the Italians.

For some time, he conducted services in St. Mary's Church, but at the same time he worked zealously among the Italian residents to secure funds for a Church of their own.

A meeting was held in the Town Hall at which Mr. Raphael Marino presided, and a Church Committee was appointed and empowered to buy property for the purpose of establishing a Church for the Italian people of Milford.

The meeting appointed Mr. Charles Caruso, Mr. Raphael Marino, Mr. Evangelista Riccio and Mr. Santo Mazzarelli to purchase real estate for this purpose.

### **Annie J. Miett**

By deed recorded in Worcester District Deeds, Book 1808, Page 217 and dated June 10, 1905, Annie J. Miett deeded to Mr. Charles Caruso, Raphael Marino, Santo Mazzarelli and Evangelista Riccio the land which was known as the Miller property, upon which the first Church was established.

Said deed was conveyed to those four men, "In trust for the Italian Society, until such time as said Society shall erect a Church thereon and when that object is accomplished the said Trustees are the survivors of them or their successors shall convey in fee simple said premises and buildings thereon to the Rt. Rev. Thomas D. Beaven, Bishop of Springfield Diocese". By deed recorded at Worcester District Deeds, Book 1812, Page 346 and dated August 7, 1905 the above mentioned four trustees conveyed the property to Most Rev. Thomas D. Beaven, Bishop of Springfield.

### **First Church**

The John Miller property on East Main Street was in a short time remodeled and was ready for religious services. The dedication of the First Sacred Heart Church in Milford took place on August 13, 1905. The Rev. Rocco Petrarca officiated, assisted by numerous priests who came for the occasion.

On the occasion of the dedication of the Church, the late Miss Minnie Murphy, who was the first organist of the Sacred Heart Parish, personally presented to the Church its first organ on August 8, 1905.

### **Second Church**

To provide better facilities for the parishioners, about 1910 work was started to build a tower in front of the Church and to embellish the façade by covering it with granite stone. On May 16, 1910, Rev. Rocco Petrarca officiated at a blessing ceremony. On this occasion, he also blessed the new bell and named it "Santa Maria".

As a remembrance of this dedication, there still stand a plaque with the inscription: "*Dei gratia fecit populiq[ue] auxilio*, Rev. Rocco Petrarca A. D. 1905". ("By



the grace of God and with the help of the people, Rev. Rocco Petrarca erected this church in the year of Our Lord 1905”).

From the day this inscription was placed on the Church, great indeed has been the progress made in the Sacred Heart Parish of Milford.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 1905, the first Italian infant was baptized in the new Church. His name is Vincent De Paolo.

Rev. Rocco Petrarca, after working zealously and in defatigably in behalf of the Italians of Milford, departed on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 1913. He became pastor of St. John the Baptist's, a large parish in Columbus, Ohio.



The Stigmatine Fathers come to milford

**1913 – Rev. Erminio Lona, C.P.S. – 1924**

**First Stigmatine Pastor**

Rev. Erminio Lona, C.P.S., succeeded Rev. Rocco Petrarca on November 7, 1913. He was the first Stigmatine Father to take over the duties of the Italian Parish in Milford. He worked among the Italians for a period of ten years, and, with his kind and affable manner, he did much for the spiritual betterment of the parishioners.

It was during his decade that, by deed dated April 1, 1919, he acquired from Frank Consoletti title to the real estate located between the Supple tract and the Zurlo tract. Said deed was made to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield, and recorded May 8, 1919, with Worcester District Deeds, Book 2175, Page 342.

### **Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy**

On Christmas Eve, in the year 1919, four Sisters of the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy came to the Sacred Heart Parish answering the invitation of Rev. Erminio Lona.

Their purpose here was to devote themselves to the religious instruction of the children of the Parish. The first band of Sisters were: Sister M. Vincenzia, the Superior, Sister M. Virginia, Sister M. Patricia and Sister M. Casimir.

The Convent for the good Sisters and the first school was made by renovating the old house purchased from Consoletti and making additions thereto.

In January, 1920, the good Sisters began their work. It consisted in caring for the kindergarten, and in holding classes in religion, Italian, and sewing for the older girls.

The attendance at these classes, which were promising right from the beginning, kept increasing daily.

The Sisters continued in this work until 1928, when a new field of work was opened for them, with the opening of the Sacred Heart Parochial School.

### **Clancy Property Acquired**

By deed dater November 3, 1922, from William F. Clancy to the Most Rev. Thomas D. Beaven, Bishop of Springfield, said deed being recorded in Worcester District Deeds, Book 2284, Page 429, Rev. Erminio Lona purchased house and land thereon.

While the property was kept, the house was sold, and from the record books of the Church we see that on December 1, 1922. Mr. Evangelista Riccio paid to the Church the amount of \$750.00 for said house.

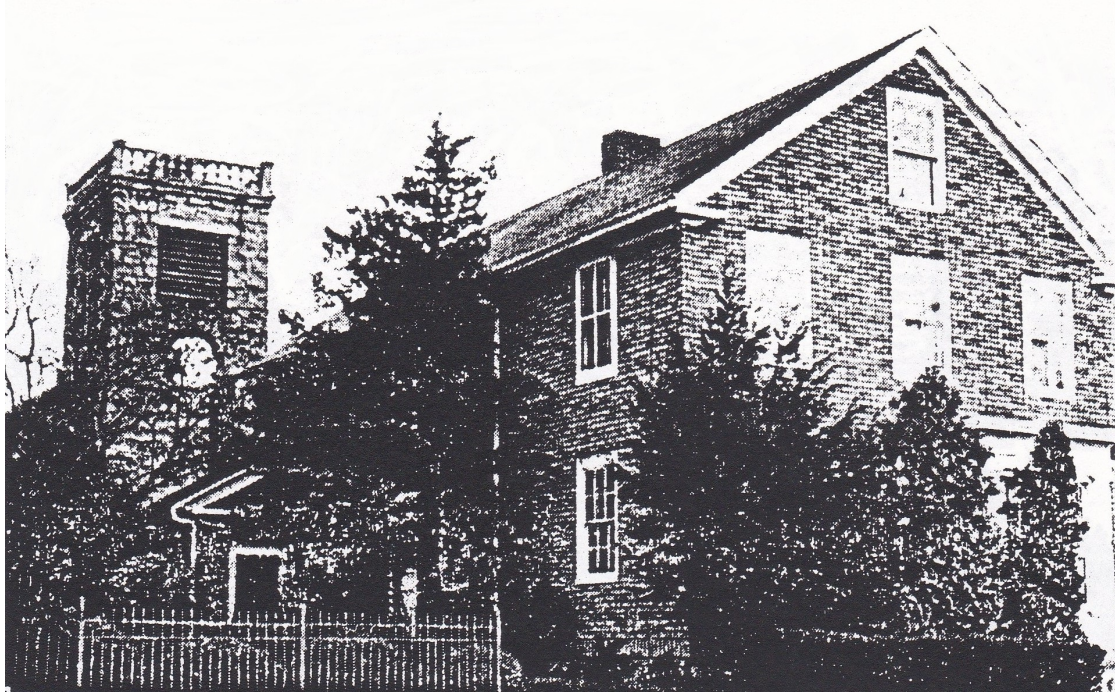
The price paid for the property of William F. Clancy was \$3600.00. To effect this purchase, the Milford Savings Bank, on December 23, 1922, gave to the Pastor a loan of \$1600.00, which is recorded in Book 2284, Page 430.

To throw some light upon the financial conditions of the Church at that time, it is interesting to note that the above mortgage of \$1600.00 was not paid off until August 27, 1924, by discharge recorded in Book 2345, Page 68, when such payment was made by the Rev. Louis Fontana, who was then Pastor.

It is also interesting to notice that, up to now, the priests of the parish did not have a rectory. But sacrificing themselves, they made their living quarters on top of the Sanctuary of the Church, occupying the second floor, which certainly was not up to date.



But it is also consoling to notice that, by this time, the Parishioners of the Sacred Heart are not only getting larger in number, but closer and closer to their priests and their Church. Different societies had their beginning, they organized themselves and they worked in many different ways to help their Church, with affairs, bazaars, entertainments, etc.



*Rectory*

### **Miss E. C. Supple, Benefactress**

On July 19, 1923, Miss Elizabeth C. Supple, a great benefactress of our Church, went to her eternal reward. She had one sister, Mrs. Gloria McCormick, and two brothers, both priests, Rev. James and Rev. Michael Supple. Because of Miss Supple's generosity, the present development and the residence for the priests were made possible.

In her will, which is dated March 22, 1923, Worcester Probate Court Case #80841, the first provision of her will reads as follows:

"To the Rt. Rev. Thomas M. O'Leary, Catholic Bishop of Springfield, the real estate situated at No. 9 (East) Main Street, in said Milford, bounded by the land formerly of one Dean, easterly by land of Boston and Albany Railroad Company; southerly by land formerly of one Clancy; and westerly by said street, together with all the household goods and furniture therein contained, being all the same premises now



occupied by me as a residence; the same to be used for the purpose of erecting a Roman Catholic Church thereon. If the said Bishop considers a Church building is not required, then the same shall be used as a Parochial School for boys, under the direction of the Stigmatine Fathers, as a Memorial to my brothers, Father Michael J. Supple and Father James N. Supple; a tablet to be erected on said premises commemorating the name.”

### **A.D. MCMXXIII**

This tablet was dedicated in 1937 to the memory of Miss Elizabeth C. Supple by the Parishioners of the Sacred Heart Church in the tenth anniversary of the building of the lower Church.

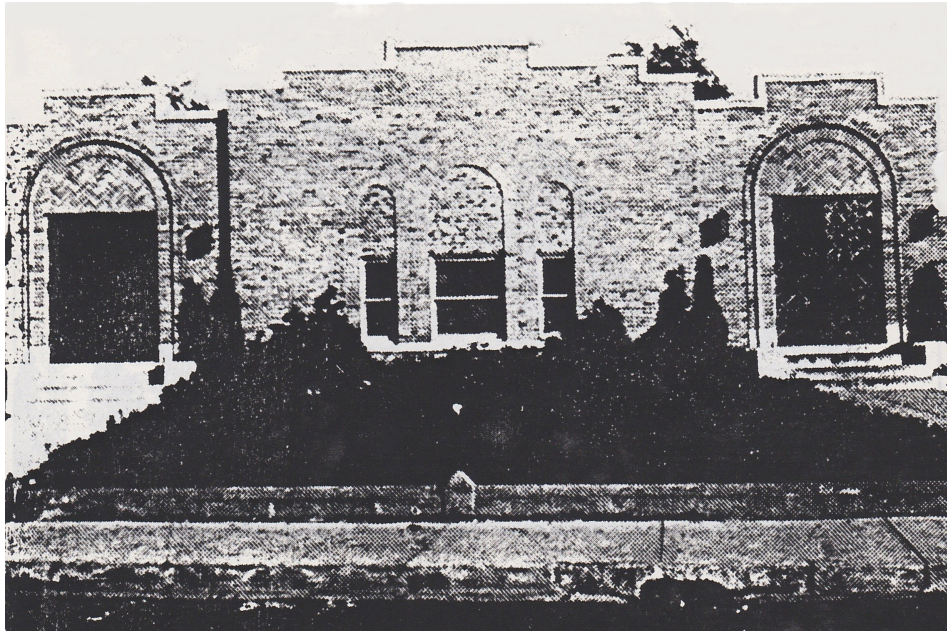
### **Other Donation – the Rectory**

Through the generosity of Miss Elizabeth C. Supple, the priests of the Parish, who up to now lived in the very limited quarters over the Church, were able to move into what turned out to be their Rectory. It still stands at 5 East Main Street.

In the Church’s record books, we find that Rev. Erminio Lona spent \$2226.50 in remodeling the Rectory, which he called Miss Supple’s house, and an additional \$123.00 to furnish it.

By this time, a great understanding was born between the priests and the parishioners of the Sacred Heart. Rev. Erminio Lona considered the Sacred Heart of Milford as part of himself. To quote part of a letter, he wrote on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the lower church, “Since I left Milford in 1924, I could not and did not forget my old Sacred Heart Parish, in which I have worked for ten years.

... I always followed with great interest the development and the progress of the development and the progress of the Italian Community in Milford; ... my thoughts are always present at any joyful event of my old parish.”



*Lower Church*

**1924 – Rev. Louis Fontana – 1928**

**Pastor**

In February of 1924, Rev. Erminio Lona was called by the Superior of the Stigmatine Fathers to direct their minor seminary, which was located in Waltham, Massachusetts. Rev. Louis Fontana, our present Pastor, succeeded Father Lona in the middle of February, 1924. Realizing the insufficient accommodations of the old Church on account of the increased attendance at Sunday Masses, he immediately preceeded to organize, even better, the good parishioners of the Sacred Heart. The program was a large one, but the will was even greater. A large committee was formed, with Philip Cenedella as chairman. With zeal and enthusiasm, the drive for the new Church was brought to a very satisfying conclusion. The parishioners corresponded very well, and sufficient funds were raised to enable the Pastor to start the present lower Church.

The hard work saw its completion when, on December 18, 1927, the Most Rev. Thomas M. O'Leary, Bishop of Springfield, came to Milford for the dedication. On the same occasion, he confirmed a class of four hundred children.

Surprisingly enough for our age, the whole work of building and furnishing the lower Church amounted to only \$91,196.90.

### **Sacred Heart Parochial School**

On September 6, 1927, after seven years of hard work in our Parish and through the untiring zeal of the Pastor, Father Fontana, our Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy opened the first class of the Sacred Heart Parochial School. This was on the former Consoletti property, which had been transformed in 1919 into a convent and school, where the Sisters conducted a kindergarten and classes in Italian and embroidery. The first year, forty-five children were enrolled in the first grade.

The following year, the second grade was added, and from then on a new grade was added each year. At the end of eight years, the Sacred Heart Parochial School was completed, with an enrollment of 260 pupils.

Only one year had elapsed after the new Church was inaugurated, when Father Louis Fontana was called by the Superiors of the Stigmatine Fathers to White Plains, New York, and from there to Lynn, Mass., where he was pastor for seven years. In 1936, he was sent by his Superior to Timmins, Ontario, Canada, to establish a new Parish for the Italian immigrants. As a matter of fact, he not only established the new Parish in Timmins, but he also built a new Rectory for the priests and left the Parish of the Sacred Heart in Timmins in a very comfortable financial situation, to come back once again to our Sacred Heart Parish in Milford in 1952.









HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II

Most Holy Father

Sacred Heart Parish

humbly begs of Your Holiness a special

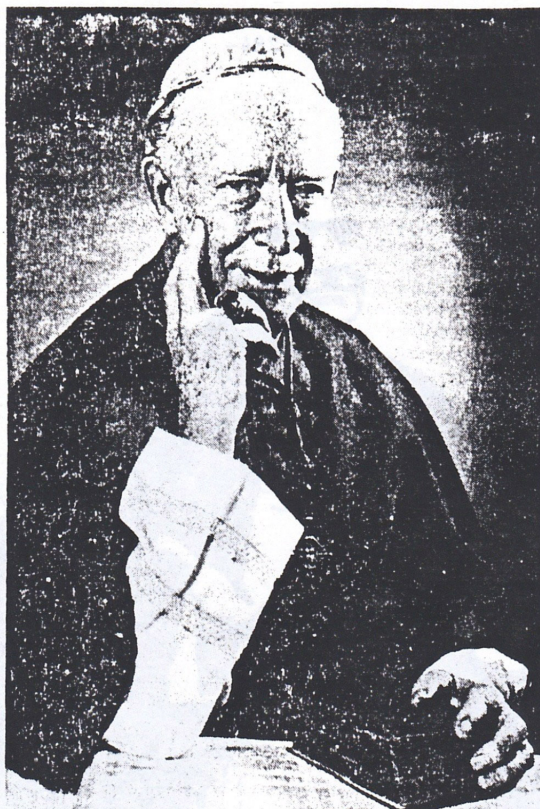
**Apostolic Blessing**

on the occasion of their 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration  
of the founding of the parish.

SS. miss. Dominus Apostolicam Benedictionem concedit  
Ex Acol. Bus Vaticanis die 8. 8. 1980

+ Antonius M. Brasig  
Curry, Lemayuanus P.P.





**MOST REVEREND BERNARD J. FLANAGAN  
BISHOP OF WORCESTER**



## DIocese of WORCESTER

49 ELM ST  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, 01609

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My dear people of Sacred Heart Parish:

It is a happy privilege for me to send you my prayerful greetings and best wishes on the occasion of your seventy-fifth anniversary as a parish family. An anniversary of a parish is a time both for grateful remembrance of the past and hopeful anticipation of the future.

As you look back over these seventy-five years, you have many reasons to be grateful to God for the countless blessings which He has poured out upon you. At the same time, your Bishop and the priests who have served you are grateful for the example of loyalty and devotion to the faith which you have exemplified so admirably.

As we look to the future, we prayerfully trust that the years ahead will witness a continuing spiritual growth and development of the fine traditions which have marked your past.

May the Lord continue to shower His blessings upon you and prosper all your good works for His honor and glory and the salvation of souls.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

*+ Bernard J. Flanagan*

Bishop of Worcester

November  
1980



**VERY REVEREND ANTHONY M. CORIGLIANO, C.S.S.  
SUPERIOR PROVINCIAL**



**STIGMATINE FATHERS and BROTHERS**

Office of the Provincial

Dear Father Azrak, Priests and Parishioners:

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you all, the warmest congratulations of the Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers, on this auspicious occasion. We rejoice with you and we are grateful for the very rewarding relationship, we have enjoyed with the Parish of Sacred Heart, Milford, Mass. God has been good to us all. May you continue to grow in His love and always know His peace.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

*Anthony M. Corigliano*  
(Very Rev.) Anthony M. Corigliano, C.S.S.  
Superior Provincial



---

**STIGMATINE FATHERS WHO SERVED IN MILFORD**

---

Rev. Erminio Lona	Rev. Louis Antonelli
Rev. Anthony Toniolli	Rev. Angelo DaPrai
Rev. Leo Sella	Rev. Anthony Corigliano
Rev. Joseph Nardon	Rev. Dominic Ruscetta
Rev. Emilio Baretella	Rev. Louis Bonan
Rev. Louis Fontana	Rev. Paul Merrill
Rev. Raymond Dalla Porta	Rev. Donald Higgins
Rev. Alfred Balestrazzi	Rev. David Gallagher
Rev. Humbert Zampieri	Rev. Robert Masciocchi
Rev. Julius Valentinelli	Rev. Gregory Hoppough
Rev. Joseph Costa	Rev. Charles Ring
Rev. Louis Zuliani	Rev. George Linse
Rev. John Golden	Rev. Robert White
Rev. John Ecker	Rev. David Martin
Rev. Victor DiMichei	Rev. Albert Azrak
Rev. Paul Zanini	Rev. Anthony Parcheski
Rev. Camillo Santini	Rev. Leo Riley
Rev. Guy Rossi	Rev. John Saracco
Rev. Leo Geraci	Rev. Joseph Flood
Rev. Guido Mespilli	Rev. Joseph Morgan
Rev. John Stanton	Rev. Charles Egan
Rev. Ellsworth Fortman	Rev. Anthony DeLoretto

Deacon Joseph Manella

---

**SISTERS FROM THE SACRED HEART PARISH**

---

Sr. Rose Ferraro, D.M.	Sr. Ann Tieuli, D.M.
Sr. Margaret DiNunzio, D.M.	

---

**PRIESTS FROM THE SACRED HEART PARISH**

---

Rev. Carlo Bevilacqua, C.S.S.	Rev. Nicholas Morcone, O.S.B.
Rev. Anthony DeCesare, C.S.S.	Rev. Jeldo Schiavoni, C.S.S.
Rev. Richard Scioli, C.S.S.	







First Church

The Sacred Heart Parish dates from 1880, with the settling of Antonio Lazzari in Braggville, followed closely by Carlo and Mariannina Ferrari in the Plains section of Milford. These families formed the nucleus of the new parish. Mrs. Ferrari soon became friend of *Miss Elizabeth Supple*, great benefactress of Sacred Heart.

A few years later, a small Italian-speaking women group, *Mariannina Ferrari, Giovanna Riva, Maria Cenedella*, decided to call an Italian-speaking priest to Milford. The First Mass in Milford for the Italian people was celebrated in 1890, in the Stone Castle Read Street.

At the Mass, the priest gave a sermon which nowadays could be called a prophecy: among other things, he said: "*In the heart of an Italian, the Catholic Religion will never die. Keep up your good work, and pray that someday you may have a monument in this town, of which the Italians will be most proud*".

From that small but fervent and enthusiastic beginning, we have today, 75 years later, a most beautiful church, rectory and a very well kept cemetery.

Active efforts on the part of the Italian-speaking people of Milford to have a Church of their own were started on October 21, 1894, when a meeting was held in the Town Hall, called by *Giacomo Cenedella, Raphael Marino, Leopoldo Castiglione, Giovanni Aspesi, Pietro Cristani, Daniele Toselli, Giovanni Zorzi, Angelo Donizoni, Bonfiglio Perini, and Cesare Riva.*

Mr. Raphael Marino called the meeting to order, and a permanent organization was effected with Mr. Cenedella as president and Mr. Marino as secretary.

The Committee had previously received the sanction of St. Mary's Church, Milford, to proceed with plans, the same to be subject to the approval of the Bishop of Springfield.



Compiled by  
The Historical Committee



# HISTORY



FIRST CHOIR



SECOND CHURCH  
(Milford, Mass., Chiesa Italiana del Sacro Cuore di Gesù)

Earlier in the year 1905, the Bishop of Springfield sent *Reverend Rocco Petrarca* to serve the spiritual needs of the people of Milford.

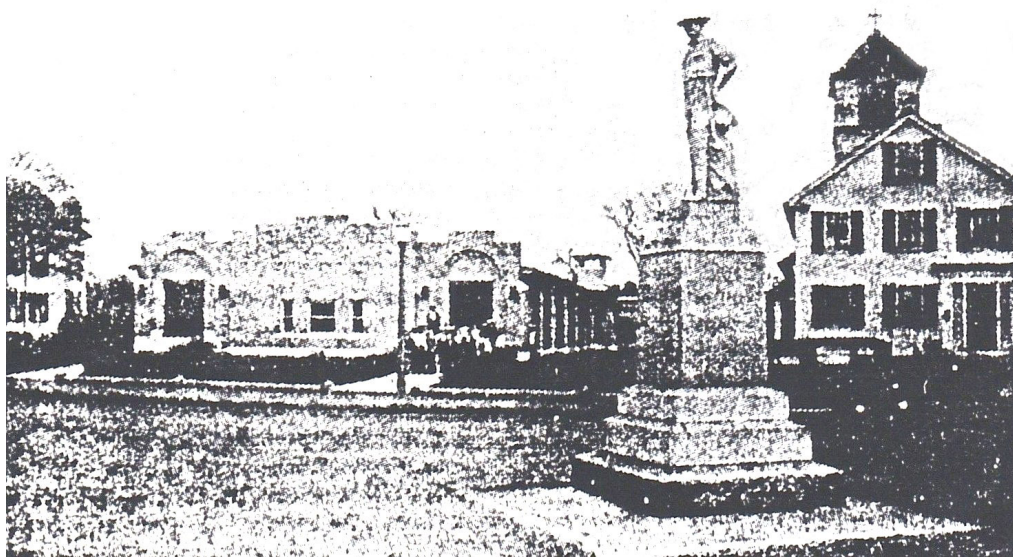
For some time, he conducted services in St. Mary's Church, but at the same time he worked zealously among the Italian residents to secure funds for a Church of their own.

A meeting was held in the Town Hall, at which *Mr. Raphael Marino* presided, and a Church Committee was appointed and empowered to buy property for the purpose of establishing a Church for the Italian people of Milford.

On June 10, 1905, *Annie J. Miett* deeded to the Church Committee the land known as the Miller property, which was located on East Main Street. At this site, the first church was established. The dedication took place on August 13, 1905, with the *Reverend Rocco Petrarca* officiating, assisted by numerous priests who came for the occasion.

The first infant baptized in the new parish was *Vincent DiPaolo*.

In 1910, work was started to build, in front of the Church, a granite tower, with a new bell, named "*Santa Maria*". This project produced the second church. As a remembrance of this dedication, there still stands a plaque with the inscription: "*Dei gratis fecit populi auxilio, Rev. Rocco Petrarca A.D. 1905*". ("By the grace of God, and with help of the people, Rev. Rocco Petrarca erected this church in the year of Our Lord, 1905").



Supple Square – Statue of Doughboy in Forefront

In 1913, the Stigmatine Fathers came to Milford. The *Reverend Erminio Lona* was the first Stigmatine Father to take over the duties of the Italian Parish in Milford. It was during his pastorate that land between the Supple tract and the Zurlo tract was acquired from *Frank Consoletti*.

On Christmas Eve, in the year 1919, four sisters of the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy came to the Sacred Heart Parish (*Sr. M. Vincenzina, the Superior, Sr. M. Virginia, Sr. M. Patricia* and *Sr. M. Casimir*), to devote themselves to the religious instruction of the children of the parish. The convent and the first school was made by renovating the old house purchased from Mr. Consoletti. The sister cared for a kindergarten, held classes in religion and Italian, and taught embroidering to the older girls. In 1927, the Sacred Heart Parochial School was opened.

A great benefactress of Sacred Heart Parish was **Miss Elizabeth C. Supple**. Because of her generosity, the residence for the priests was made possible.

In 1924, realizing the insufficient accommodations of the old granite church, the Parish built the lower church, and dedicated it on December 18, 1927. On September 6, 1927, the Pastor, *Rev. Louis Fontana*, and the Sisters from the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, opened the first class of the Sacred Heart Parochial School, on the Consoletti property. The first year, forty-five children were enrolled in the first grade. The following year, the second grade was added, and from then on a new grade was added



each year. At the end of eight years, the Sacred Heart Parochial School had an enrollment of 260 pupils.

In 1933, the increasing number of classes made it imperative for *Father Raymond Dalla Porta*, the pastor at the time, to provide new accommodations; the upper floor of the school building, which had been used as a hall, was converted to three classrooms.

With the opening of the new lower church in December, 1927, the Parish had the old church building available as a hall and little theatre, named Garden Hall. Bowling alleys were opened in the basement on October 18, 1931.

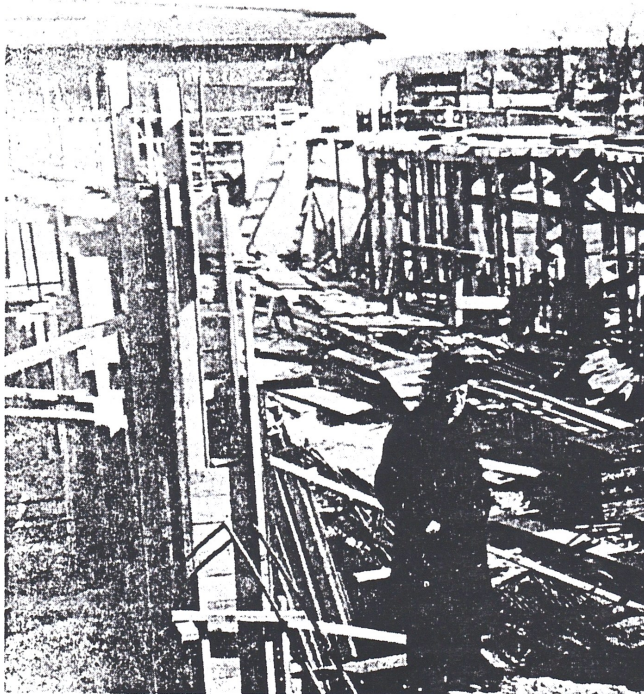
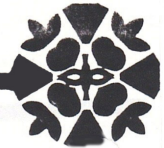
The *Reverend Julius Valentinelli* arrived on April 1, 1933. One of his projects was to give the Italian parish of Milford a cemetery of its own. On May 26, 1937, a meeting, open to all parishioners, was held in the Town Hall, and it was voted to establish a cemetery on Medway Road.

Fifty-five acres were purchased for \$5,500. On May 29, 1939, the cemetery's beautiful Calvary monument was dedicated. The Calvary monument, built of granite from the Milford Caves, stands eighteen feet high in the middle of the cemetery.

The first burial was held in the Sacred Heart Cemetery on Thursday, October 18, 1937, when the body of Mr. Nicholas Calzone was transferred from St. Mary's Cemetery to the new burial ground.

In November, 1939, Father Valentinelli announced that a drive would start to burn the old mortgage of \$35,000 to enable the parish to build the upper church. The response of the parishioners was so great that. By the end of 1942, not only the old mortgage was all paid off, but the present inside and outside stairways and the present entrances to the lower Church were constructed and paid for.

World War II, with its scarcity of materials, prevented the undertaking of any work at that time.



In June of 1943, *Reverend Raymond Dalla Porta* was, once again, made Pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish. After three years of hard saving, he had \$100,000 in the bank. Realizing that the task to build the upper Church had fallen upon himself, after the necessary permission was granted by the Bishop of Springfield, Most Reverend Thomas M. O'Leary, the construction started on March 19, 1946. The contract for the construction of the upper Church called for \$300,000.

After only sixteen months of anxious expectation, the Sacred Heart parishioners saw, with great satisfaction, the whole Church completed. Anyone who has seen the Church will certainly agree that it is a splendid monument to the faith and the generosity of the Italians in Milford, and to the artistic taste of the priest. The whole thing could only have been done by the cooperation between the parishioners and their priests. In dedicating the new church on July 20, 1947, the Most Reverend Thomas M. O'Leary, Bishop of Springfield, said: "In building this beautiful temple, the Italians of Milford have erected not only a tower of glory for themselves, but a symbol of duty to God for everyone to see. I thank you and congratulate you for all your good work and fine spirit of cooperation in building this beautiful House of God, who will dedicate but a cup of cold water in His Name".

On that morning, the dreams and the sacrifices of thousands were fulfilled and rewarded. Since August 13, 1905, when the Sacred Heart had a modest beginning in a small wooden Church, the Italian people of



Milford have envisioned the day when they would have a majestic edifice, which would be a proof of their love and generosity to the Parish. The new Church proudly takes its place among the many beautiful churches in this section of the country.

The church, constructed of face brick and limestone trim, in Romanesque style, is one of the outstanding edifices in this part of Massachusetts. It is dressed with a beautiful monumental Milford pink granite staircase. The main doors were constructed of heavy oak, and are finished in an antique tone. The high Lombard tower can be seen from outlying distances. The unique tower, flanked with flying buttresses and arches, creates an impressive landmark in this area. The roof of the church and tower is of Mission tile, in a variegated red blend, that harmonizes with the brick walls.



The interior of the church was designed beautifully in a decorative stone and plaster, with richly colored marble wainscoting and trim through the Church. The conservation of space by the elimination of interior columns is quite a departure from the usual Churches, thus affording sufficient light through large stained glass windows, and eliminating any obstruction with the Nave.

The supporting trusses are without cords, so that it does not detract from the fullness of the entire richly ornamental vaulted ceiling, and the elaborately designed sanctuary is visible from all parts of the Church.





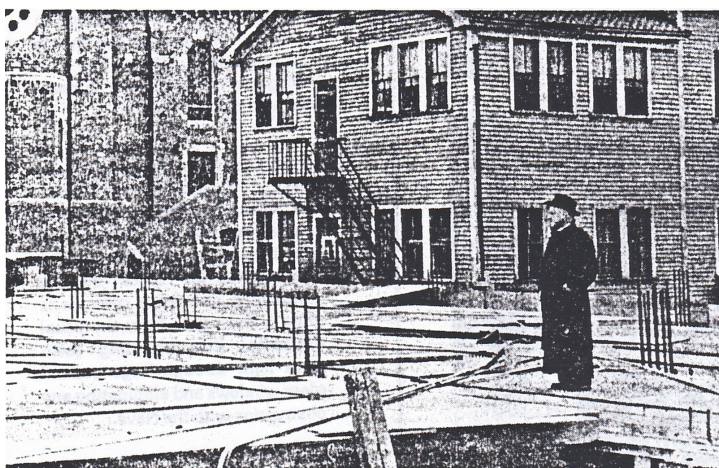
On June 3, 1950, one of the outstanding religious events in the history of the Church was the ordination to the Sacred Priesthood of four young men to the Stigmatine Order, through the special permission of *Archbishop Richard J. Cushing*. *Bishop John J. Wright* officiated at the ceremony. Since 1950, four other ordination ceremonies have taken place in our church.

*"Our next undertaking must be for the children", the pastor, Father Dalla Porta, wrote in the Parish Messenger on February 1950, "because they are those who will carry into future generations the great gift of faith."*

After some difficulties about the surveying of the property were settled, the permission was granted by the ecclesiastical authorities to go ahead in the plans for the construction of the new school.

Another milestone was reached by the Sacred Heart Parish when Bishop John J. Wright Blessed the site and burned over the first shovel of dirt for the new Sacred Heart Parochial School and Convent on December 9, 1950.

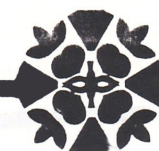
On September 5, 1951, the new Sacred Heart Parochial School was opened, with 376 children in attendance. The old school building and convent were dismantled immediately, in order that a beautiful,



spacious playground could be provided in front of the new school. This work was done swiftly, and in a short time everything was ready for the children's playground.

The school and convent officially were dedicated on January 21, 1952, by the *Most Reverend John J. Wright, Bishop of Worcester*.

The exterior of the school building is a very imposing edifice, erected with the same kind of brick and limestone used in the Church, so that the two buildings are perfectly matched.







When *Reverend Raymond Dalla Porta* started the construction of the new school building, the Church had an \$81,000 debt.

The building of the new school and convent amounted to \$600,000, so that, at the beginning of the year 1952, the total debt was \$681,000.

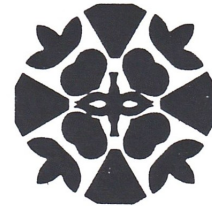
During the years 1952, 1953 and 1954, through the untiring efforts of the Pastor, *Reverend Louis Fontana*, and the wonderful cooperation of the good parishioners, who understood the task facing the Pastor, the debt was reduced, so that, at the end of the year 1954, it was \$558,638.

In late 1954, realizing the parishioners interest in their church and school, the Pastor called a meeting for a Golden Jubilee celebration to be held in the year 1955. During the week of June 12, 1955, the Golden Jubilee Program was held, which included a Triduum in honor of the Sacred Heart, a Solemn Requiem Mass for parishioners and friends, a Solemn High Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart, and a Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving and a program of entertainment, which included a variety show, carnival and banquet.

*Reverend Raymond Dalla Porta C.S.S.* observed a milestone in his life on March 3, 1957, honoring the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, at a daylong observance.

In 1961, a new rectory was built to replace the old wooden structure. Included, in addition to living quarters, are accommodations for a front office and conference rooms.

A new organ for the upper church was purchased and installed in June of 1968, and was dedicated to the memory of our beloved former Pastor, the *Reverend Raymond Dalla Porta*.

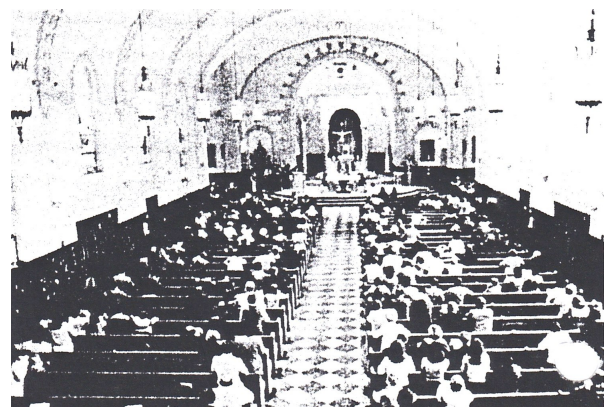


The following years saw the renovation of the lower church, and the sale of church owned property on Medway Road. At this time, the Church was able to pay the mortgage and all the outstanding debts.

In accordance with Vatican II, the upper Church was renovated, and on May 27, 1973 was dedicated. Vatican II called for more participation by the laity, with the guidance of the clergy in all programs associated with parish life. These new directives would now have the people and the clergy working together to plan and coordinate all events and celebrations pertaining to the physical, spiritual and social life of the Parish.

People volunteered to become Lectors at Mass to read the Scriptures. Others became Eucharistic Ministers, their duties being to assist the priest in the distribution of the Eucharist. Although our parish has always had a choir of which to be very proud, we now added song leaders at all the Masses, to encourage participation in the sacred music, and a folk group.

The year 1975 brought sadness to many with the closing of the Sacred Heart Parish School. In September of the same year, the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish School and St. Mary's Parish School merged, under the direction of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy.





**List of the Deceased Stigmatines whose bodies are buried in Milford**

Month	Day	Year	Title	Family Name	Christian Name	Age
Sep	1	1925	Fr	Toniolli	Antonio	38
Mar	22	1932	Fr	Dalla Porta	Antonio	57
Aug	29	1932	Bro	Salvi	Antonio	47
Dec	10	1941	Bro	Dehò	Gino	34
Mar	3	1945	Fr	Contino	Guglielmo	32
Nov	17	1946	Fr	Gabos	Enrico	65
Aug	26	1946	Bro	Maderna	Henry	62
Nov	27	1946	Bro	La Spina	Domenico	40
Dec	23	1952	Fr	Zambiasi	Riccardo	74
Oct	22	1956	Fr	Baretella	Emilio	83
Apr	12	1957	Fr	Sella	Leone	78
Jun	19	1957	Std	Canning	Giacomo	26
Sep	23	1958	Bro	Henry	John	79
Nov	12	1958	Bro	Linda	Ettore	50
Nov	9	1958	Fr	Cerino	Arthur	42
Feb	24	1963	Fr	Zadra	Remigio	72
Sep	30	1964	Fr	Rosa	Giuseppe	77
Jan	30	1965	Fr	Zanotti	Carlo	71
May	11	1966	Fr	DeMichei	Victor	68
Nov	14	1966	Fr	Geraci	Leo	50
Nov	19	1966	Fr	Dalla Porta	Raimondo	83



Dec	23	1966	Bro	Hughes	Charles	53
Nov	18	1968	Fr	Fini	Gilbert	52
Sep	7	1969	Fr	Torretta	Pietro	62
Sep	18	1969	Fr	Ludessi	Guglielmo	80
Jan	23	1970	Fr	Connors	Giorge	50
Mar	9	1970	Fr	Zanini	Paolo	68
Mar	14	1970	Fr	Lona	Erminio	91
Mar	22	1970	Fr	Formolo	Vittorio	78
Jun	26	1971	Fr	Daly	Paul Vincent	59
Jan	11	1974	Fr	Avi	Giovanni	60
Nov	23	1974	Fr	Piskel	Paul	61
Mar	3	1976	Fr	Zampieri	Umberto	77
Mar	17	1976	Fr	Giampaolo	Dino	49
Aug	9	1977	Fr	Costa	Giuseppe	82
Jan	15	1979	Fr	Dalla Via	Stefano	80
Mar	23	1980	Fr	Wegher	Dario	82
Apr	9	1980	Bro	Barba	Giuseppe	77
Sep	28	1981	Fr	Amodio	Giuseppe	66
Aug	10	1982	Fr	Valentinelli	Giulio	85
Aug	21	1982	Fr	Dickinson	John	71
Oct	12	1982	Bro	Rocius	Giovanni	61
Jun	21	1984	Fr	Zuliani	Luigi	79
Jul	19	1984	Fr	Kelley	Edwin Francis	61
Oct	12	1984	Fr	Turri	Dante	82

Jun	14	1986	Fr	Ring	John Charles	61
Jul	26	1986	Bro	Fontanari	Giuseppe	74
Feb	13	1987	Fr	Nuccio	Anthony Alfred	55
Jun	17	1987	Bro	Kessler	Paul Francis	60
Nov	3	1987	Fr	Da Prai	Angelo	77
Sep	25	1988	Fr	Saracco	John	73
Jan	20	1989	Fr	Armour	Charles	78
Feb	11	1989	Fr	Golden	John	78
Oct	24	1991	Bro	Fair	Joseph Daniel	68
Jan	14	1992	Fr	Mespilli	Guido	79
Jan	23	1992	Fr	Collins	William	76
Jul	2	1992	Fr	Piazzzi	Serafino	78
Apr	8	1993	Fr	Bonan	Louis James	81
May	12	1993	Bro	Chiarenza	Patrick Victor	74
Oct	2	1993	Fr	Chameal	Samuel	79
Jan	29	1994	Fr	Linse	George	77
May	11	1994	Fr	Saulnier	Donald F.	55
Feb	22	1995	Fr	Riley	Leo	79
Apr	24	1995	Fr	Morgan	Joseph	78
Jan	25	1996	Fr	Ferrari	Adolph	83
Oct	15	1996	Fr	Sinesi	Charles	72
Oct	31	1996	Fr	Flood	Joseph Edward	80
Jan	25	1997	Fr	Ecker	George Francis	86
Jan	6	1998	Bro	Egan	Daniel Patrick	74

May	8	1998	Fr	Gallagher	David Leo	78
Aug	2	1998	Fr	Shea	James Gerard	84
Jun	27	1999	Fr	Santini	Camillo Louis	86
Jul	7	1999	Fr	Goggin	Gerald	80
Jul	31	1999	Fr	Canzano	Ettore	77
Aug	2	2000	Fr	Russo	Carmen Thomas	82
Oct	8	2000	Bro	Fowler	John Eldon	76
Feb	1	2001	Fr	Ahern	Richard Jordan	73
Feb	25	2001	Fr	Ruscetta	Dom. Anthony	89
Jun	24	2001	Fr	Ribezzi	Rinaldo	86
Nov	14	2001	Fr	Bevilacqua	Charles John	83
Mar	7	2002	Fr	Grady	Charles James	79
Sep	3	2002	Fr	Leotilo	Rocco	76
Feb	8	2003	Fr	Egan	Charles F.	83
Apr	3	2003	Fr	Keefe	Francis	77
Jun	29	2003	Fr	Ford	John Henry	76
Apr	16	2004	Fr	Welch	Joseph	91
Aug	31	2004	Fr	Della Badia	Leonard	93
Dec	29	2005	Fr	Toner	Donald John	73
Mar	5	2006	Fr	Cannizzo	Vito Francis	90
Mar	29	2006	Fr	Parcheski	Anthony Raymond	88
Nov	28	2006	Fr	Merrill	Paul Charles	74
Jan	25	2007	Fr	Fellin	Joseph Henry	85
Mar	18	2007	Fr	Massaro	Joseph Peter	85



Aug	20	2007	Fr	Fayad	Samuel Joseph	88
Jun	25	2008	Bro	Spencer	Richard	79
Jan	18	2011	Fr	Dolan	Charles Edward	83
Dec	25	2013	Fr	Spagnolo	Nicholas	88
Jun	22	2014	Fr	Flanagan	James Edward	90
Jan	16	2015	Fr	Linse	Henry Julius	95
Feb	6	2015	Fr	Connolly	Joseph Michael	84
Jan	22	2016	Fr	Cunningham	James Thomas	96
Dec	30	2019	Fr	Ferrecchia	Leonard Joseph	90
Apr	7	2021	Fr	Henchey	Joseph Charles	90
Nov	16	2021	Fr.	Corigliano	Anthony Mary	92
Mar	6	2023	Fr	Burns	Paul David	87
June	21	2023	Fr	Gallagher	David Francis	88

