100th Anniversary

Mary Immaculate of Lourdes
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Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church
originally St. Mary's Church

Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts
His Eminence, Richard Cardinal Cushing
Rev. Msgr. Daniel F. Riordan, Pastor
Lourdes is a town of about 16,000 on the Gave de Pau River at the foot of the Pyrenees in southwestern France. It was an obscure village until the Blessed Virgin appeared there to the fourteen year old St. Bernadette Soubirous eighteen times between February 11 and July 16, 1858. Word spread quickly, and soon her visits to the grotto of Massabielle on the riverside were accompanied by crowds that reached 20,000 at one point. Only Bernadette, however, saw the visions.

After calling for penance on February 24, the next day the Lady directed Bernadette to drink and wash at a spring which came forth as soon as she dug. The water which now flows at a rate of 32,000 gallons a day is used for the bath at Lourdes and is prized as a sacramental by pilgrims. On February 27 and March 2 Bernadette was instructed to have a chapel built and to have people come there in processions. On March 25 the Lady told Bernadette, in the dialect of Lourdes, "I am the Immaculate Conception." The final vision occurred on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

After a short period of opposition by some, Bishop Laurence in 1862 confirmed the apparitions and approved the public devotion of Our Lady of Lourdes. In 1862 also a marble statue of the Blessed Virgin was carved and a Gothic church (in place of the chapel) was begun, which was consecrated a minor basilica in 1876. In 1883 the increase in the number of pilgrims necessitated another church, the Rosary Basilica with fifteen chapels, which became a minor basilica in 1926.

Lourdes' two million pilgrims a year include all nationalities, classes and ages, the sick especially prominent. The first cure at Lourdes was reported in 1858. Cures are subject to an exhaustive process of examination and confirmation, and of 5,000 reported cures by the end of 1959, 58 have been declared as miraculous by the church.

Thus, from the appearances of Mary Immaculate to a simple peasant girl at Lourdes many years ago has come one of the most famous and inspiring shrines the world has ever known.
HONORARY CHAIRMAN
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MR. PHILIP B. LAYELLE

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Mr. and Mrs. John M. Mullen
Miss Mary D. Prendergast
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Record
Centennial Program

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1970
Mass at 7:00 P.M. for the deceased members of the parish

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1970
Mass at 7:00 P.M. for all priests, sisters and brothers who have been associated with the parish

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1970
Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at 4:00 P.M.
His Eminence, Richard Cardinal Cushing, will preside
Buffet dinner following the Mass at Emerson School
5 High Street, Newton Upper Falls
Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church
Pastors and Assistants
1870-1970

Pastors

1870-1871 . . . . Rev. Michael X. Carroll
1871-1885 . . . . Rev. Michael Dolan
1885-1890 . . . . Rev. Martin O’Brien
1890-1923 . . . . Rev. Timothy J. Danahy
1923-1934 . . . . Rev. Dennis H. Donovan

1893-1905 . . . . Rev. Cornelius I. Riordan
1906 . . . . Rev. Michael F. Callahan
1906-1908 . . . . Rev. Frederick J. Allchin
1907-1923 . . . . Rev. Dennis H. Donovan
1914-1917 . . . . Rev. Eugene A. Maguire
1923-1928 . . . . Rev. Msgr. Frederick G. Driscoll
1928-1929 . . . . Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Houlihan
1928-1932 . . . . Rev. John D. Lyons
1932-1934 . . . . Rev. William E. Kerrigan
1931-1939 . . . . Rev. Daniel F. Dunn
1939-1944 . . . . Rev. Thomas A. Dwyer
1949 . . . . Rev. Edmund L. Loughlin
1949-1950 . . . . Rev. Francis P. Foley
1959-1964 . . . . Rev. Joseph E. McDonald

Assistants

1880-1885 . . . . Rev. Michael E. Begley
1886-1888 . . . . Rev. Daniel J. Gleeson
1888-1889 . . . . Rev. Nathaniel J. Merritt
1889 . . . . Rev. J. M. Gallagher
1889-1890 . . . . Rev. Matthew J. Flaherty
1890 . . . . Rev. T. J. Murphy
1892 . . . . Rev. Edward Connolly

1931-1939 . . . . Rev. Daniel F. Dunn
1939-1944 . . . . Rev. Thomas A. Dwyer
1949 . . . . Rev. Edmund L. Loughlin
1949-1950 . . . . Rev. Francis P. Foley
1959-1964 . . . . Rev. Joseph E. McDonald
Religious Vocations From the Parish
1870-1970

Priests

Rev. Michael E. Begley, deceased
Rev. Richard F. Cronin, S.M., Bishop Grimes High School, East Syracuse, N.Y.
Rev. Msgr. Edmund Daley, deceased
Rev. Leo J. Geraci, C.S.S., deceased
Rev. Victor Leeber, S.J., Fairfield University, Fairfield, Conn.
Rev. Joseph Meredith, deceased
Rev. Thomas F. Motherway, assistant at St. Ambrose Parish, Dorchester, Mass.
Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Murphy, retired at Regina Cieri, Boston, Mass.
Rev. Msgr. John E. Murphy, pastor at St. Patrick’s Parish, North Little Rock, Arkansas
Rev. Robert F. Reardon, pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Rev. Bernard J. Smith, deceased

Sisters

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<td>Sister Miriam Joseph</td>
<td>Sisters of Charity of Halifax, deceased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary F. Murphy</td>
<td>Sister Mary Cordia</td>
<td>Sisters of Mercy, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winifred Shields</td>
<td>Sister Winifred Shields</td>
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"I shall go to the altar of God"
Years of Faith and Devotion

Although we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the parish of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes, the history of the parish and indeed of the Catholic Church in Newton and adjoining sections of Needham and Wellesley goes back much farther to the early and middle years of the 1800's when Catholics began to move into the Upper Falls Village of Newton attracted by the newly established mills there. At that time the entire town was included in already established parishes in Watertown and Waltham and for many years was served by priests from Waltham and then from Watertown.

In 1843 the first Mass in Newton was celebrated by Father James Strain of Waltham in the home of Edward Cahill, which was located on Chestnut Street near Elliot Street. Father Strain continued to administer to the needs of the Catholics in Newton until 1850, when he was succeeded by Father Patrick Flood, also from Waltham. During his administration a beginning was made to gather funds for a church - although this effort apparently went forward very slowly at first. It was during his administration that Newton became a mission of Watertown. As the number of Catholics began to grow, services were transferred from the private home to Elliot Hall, located on High Street, although it was not until 1860 that Sunday Mass began to be celebrated on a regular basis.

By this time with the congregation having grown to about 300 in size, the drive for a church began to go forward in earnest. In 1864 Father John McCarthy of Watertown, who served as administrator between 1863 and 1870, purchased land on the east side of Chestnut Street between Elliot and Oak Streets, and in 1867 the dreams of the congregation were realized when a small wooden church in the Gothic style, 46' by 76' in size, was erected. This church, which cost all of $10,000 to build, was dedicated as St. Mary’s on November 17, 1867. It was the first Catholic Church in Newton.

An historical milestone was reached three years later when all of the area of Newton south of Beacon Street, part of Wellesley, and all of Needham were incorporated into a new St. Mary's parish with Rev. Michael X. Carroll being named as pastor. He was succeeded almost immediately by Father Michael Dolan, a man of enormous energy and foresight, who did much to further the expansion of the young parish, before he moved on in 1885 to become pastor of the younger parish of Our Lady's.

By adding a transept to the original edifice, he increased the seating capacity of the church to 1000; he also constructed a basement, had the upper church beautifully frescoed and had a new slate roof put on. With an eye to the future he purchased land on Hale Street to be used eventually for a convent and a school and also purchased a pasture on Chestnut Street and built a barn for a cow and horses and also a carriage shed. Furthermore, in the mid 1870's he purchased...
about 30 acres of land in Needham for what now is known as St. Mary's Cemetery. As if that were not enough, this man of astonishing energy maintained a mission for the Catholics of the Lower Falls Village, ultimately purchasing land and building a church there which was dedicated in 1881 as the church of St. John the Evangelist. Another interesting note about the pastorate of Father Dolan is that for five years he was assisted by Father Michael Begley, a native of St. Mary's parish and the first young man from the parish to be called to the priesthood. After his service here, Father Begley was on the staff of St. John's Seminary as Treasurer for a number of years.

The third pastor of St. Mary's, Father Martin O'Brien lived only 5 years to carry on the work of the flourishing parish, which was growing so rapidly that in 1890 both the parish of St. John the Evangelist in Lower Falls-Wellesley and the parish of the Sacred Heart in Newton Centre were separated from the parish of St. Mary's. The mother parish was now reduced to
Parish Boundary Lines

COLOR KEY

Present boundaries

Original boundaries

No original boundary designated
include Upper Falls, Waban, Oak Hill, part of Newton Highlands, part of Wellesley and all of Needham.

At Father O’Brien’s death in 1890, there was appointed a most remarkable man, Father Timothy J. Danahy, who established some kind of record for longevity by remaining as pastor for a third of a century, his pastorate ending only at his death in 1923. Father Danahy was a dynamic, strong willed and colorful individual who was accustomed to making his parish rounds and going to his Needham mission on Sunday by horseback. So many were his accomplishments that he left an indelible impression on the communities within the confines of his parish.

He established many devotions such as the blessing of throats on the feast of St. Blase before they became generally observed in the diocese. He also demon-
The sanctuary of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church at its dedication

strated a remarkable talent for raising the funds necessary to support a physically large parish whose congregation, outside of those living close to the church, was small and scattered and whose wages were low. Much of the money raised was through social affairs which at various times included bazaars, field days, picnics, square dances, and appropriate entertainments at Christmas and Easter. So successful were his efforts that Father Danahy was able early in his pastorate to begin construction of a church for his Needham mission. The resulting church of St. Joseph's was dedicated in 1894 and became a separate parish in 1917.

Possibly Father Danahy's greatest accomplishment was the building of the present church of Mary Immaculate. In the early years of this century conditions were favorable for such an undertaking, and
there was always the possibility of greater expense if the project were delayed. Thus, despite the fact that this was a tremendous undertaking for a parish of only 1500 members, Father Danahy pressed forward with his customary zeal and confidence. Setting aside at least for the time being the question of a school and convent, he sold the property on Chestnut Street and purchased the present site, then known as the Newall estate. The corner stone was laid on October 3, 1909, and on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1910, the church was dedicated by Cardinal William O'Connell to Mary Immaculate of Lourdes. (The change in name was decided upon because the original name, St. Mary's, was considered too indefinite.) Edwin P. T. Graham was the architect, but apparently much of his work consisted of translating into workable plans the ideas and designs of Father Danahy, who also in ordering stained glass windows from the firm of Zettler in Munich, Germany, reportedly had some of them made up according to sketches that he himself sent them.

All in all, the church stands as a memorial to his pastorate. Built of red brick with a red tile roof in the Italian Romanesque style, it then provided seating for 650 people. The dominant features of the exterior are the portico supported by massive pillars, the facade of which holds a group of statues representing the apparition at Lourdes; and the bell tower, 135 feet high, the three bells of which were dedicated to St. John, St. Gabriel, and St. Elizabeth. These bells were connected to the tower clock to strike the hours and to ring the Angelus at morning, noon and night.

Focal point of the beautiful interior was the main altar. Set behind an altar rail of red Italian marble, the altar itself was constructed of white Italian marble. In its lower section it contains a sculpture of The Last Supper while in its upright section it contains three paintings, each of which was prepared in advance so

These lovely paintings over the main altar represent the Annunciation, the Assumption and the Coronation of the Blessed Mother
The beautiful stained glass window
"Flight into Egypt"

chat it could be inserted into its particular panel and which focus on Christ's descent from the Cross. Rched above the altar is a painting of the Blessed Virgin and Bernadette at Lourdes. High in the arch above the altar are three paintings dealing with the Blessed Virgin: The Annunciation on the left, The Assumption in the center, and The Coronation on the right. All of these paintings as well as the paintings of the Apostles and the Evangelists found high up over the pews in the center aisle were the work of an Italian painter, G. Raggi.

The beautiful stained glass windows depict events in the lives of our Lord, our Lady and the Saints with the relevant texts in the Bible being designated in the upper part of each window. One of the most noteworthy of these windows is the horizontal panel located between the vestibule and the interior of the church. Depicting the "Flight into Egypt" it was the gift of the Saco-Lowell Company, an industry then located in Newton Upper Falls.

On the front left side of the church, in place of a window there was built a grotto representing the scene at Lourdes. Bernadette, dressed as a shepherdess, is shown kneeling at the feet of the Blessed Mother. The painted setting for these figures portrays the landscape in this region of the Pyrenees Mountains.

The building of the church cost $150,000, an enormous sum for those days, and again it is a tribute to Father Danahy's wizardry at money raising and management that the entire indebtedness was paid off long before his death in 1923.

The parish continued to progress during the ensuing pastorate of Father Dennis Donovan, who had been Father Danahy's curate. He turned the basement of the church into a chapel seating 500 people, utilizing the confessional, pews and the Stations of the Cross from the old church. He also was responsible for the establishment of a mission in Waban in 1927 and the building of St. Philip Neri's Church in 1928. This became a separate church in 1934, the same year that Father Donovan died.

Conditions in the parish began to change somewhat in the thirities as it changed from a growing to a more static parish. The parish was seriously affected financially by the depression of the thirties, and as factories closed or moved, parishioners also moved out with a resulting adverse effect on the parish. The task of maintaining the property was an enormous one; it is a tribute to the succeeding pastors that they have not only maintained the property, but with the assistance of the parishioners have continually improved it.

For example, Father Donovan's successor, Father
William O'Connell, (1935-1950) had to make expensive repairs on the roof of the church and rebuild the bell scaffolding in the tower. In addition, the new rectory cost $8,000 more than the amount bequeathed for the purpose by Father Donovan. However, Father O'Connell not only met these expenses but also completely renovated the interior of the church and purchased the adjoining McOwen house for use as a parish center.

In 1950, Father John Wall became pastor (an interim pastor, Father Alexander McCarthy, lived only for four months). In his seven years as pastor, Father Wall continued the efforts of his predecessors. He modernized the chapel, remodeled the parish center and named it St. Elizabeth's Center, and was responsible for much of the landscaping of the church property as we see it now. Among religious devotions that he instituted were the noonday Mass on Holydays, evening Masses in Lent and on Feastdays, and the Rosary devotions i n May and October at the outdoor shrine. He also instituted or revived various social activities to bring the members of the parish closer together.

Indeed, parish organizations have had a long record of accomplishment in furthering the religious life of the parish throughout its history. Although a charter was granted to the parish on June 7, 1945, by the newly formed Archdiocesan Union of Holy Name Societies, there was a Holy Name Society functioning as early as the late 1890's. At that time there was an evening business meeting twice monthly including reports as
well as a lesson by the pastor or curate. Holy Name Sunday with Communion for the men was held every three months.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was the first Conference in Newton, organized on February 27, 1916, and receiving its charter on June 18, 1917. At that time meetings were held weekly, alternating between the mission in Needham and the mother church in Newton Upper Falls.

The Ladies' Sodality was first affiliated with the Sodality of Our Lady on March 25, 1872, under the primary title of the Immaculate Conception and the secondary title of St. Rose of Lima. Apparently, after a period of activity it became dormant for a number of years until it was reactivated in 1949 with Father John J. Mulcahy as its spiritual director. The first meeting was held on November 18 of that same year. Father Mulcahy spoke on the meaning of the Sodality and plans were made for the future. In our own day, as these organizations continue to flourish, we have also seen the establishment of a parish council as the parish, in keeping with contemporary changes in the church, has moved towards greater lay participation in the direction of the parish.

Before considering the parish in our own day, let us review briefly the history of the Xaverian Brothers' Novitiate, formerly the Working Boys' Home. Although not administered by the parish of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes, since this institution is within the confines of the parish its story is of considerable interest.

The property, in the Oak Hill section of Newton Centre comprising forty-eight acres bounded by Winchester and Nahanton Streets as well as the Charles River, was purchased in 1872 by Archbishop Williams as the site of a proposed seminary. However, the purchase of the Stanwood estate in Brighton which ultimately became St. John's Seminary changed these plans, and in June, 1890 the property was transferred...
Years of Faith and Devotion

St. Elizabeth's Center

tended St. John's Seminary in Brighton from 1922 to 1928, and was ordained in Boston on May 25, 1928. His first post was at Our Lady Help of Christians in June of that year. In November, 1944 he was transferred to St. Thomas Parish in Jamaica Plain, and on October 14, 1952 he was named pastor of St. Elizabeth's in Acton. In November, 1967 he was honored for many years of devoted service to the church when he was elevated to the rank of Monsignor.

When Father Riordan arrived at Mary Immaculate in 1957, he was faced with challenges quite different from those of a young, growing parish but no less pressing. The parish was geographically widespread and divided by two major highways as well as the Charles River. The physical plant required attention, and the first order of business was a new heating system for the church as well as extensive repairs to the roof, parapet walls and paintings at a cost of well over $20,000.

The bells in the campanile tower were electrified so that once again God's message of peace came ringing through the air to all. The unfailing generosity of the parishioners provided needed refurbishing of the rec-

The present rectory

to the Corporation of St. John's Industrial School. In 1896 a large brick building with a high tower was constructed at a cost of $100,000.

The Newton home cared for homeless and orphaned boys, providing them an elementary school education as well as training in printing, cooking, farming and other trades. The Bennett Street home in Brighton was sold in 1906, thereby augmenting the number of boys at the Newton home.

However, at the time of the death of Archbishop Williams, the financial affairs of the Home were in "an embarrassing and precarious condition." Therefore, in 1907 Archbishop O'Connell reorganized the Corporation and placed the Home in charge of the Xaverian Brothers.

Ultimately, the number of boys being served by the institution dropped to such a point that maintaining the Home as such was no longer practicable. Therefore, the Home was reorganized to become a novitiate of the Xaverian Brothers. As such, they have maintained close ties with the parish, including such past activities as providing instruction for the Christian Doctrine classes and serving as choir at one of the Sunday Masses.

Father Daniel F. Riordan was appointed pastor of Mary Immaculate on January 9, 1957. He had attended St. John's Seminary in Brighton from 1922 to 1928, and was ordained in Boston on May 25, 1928. His first post was at Our Lady Help of Christians in June of that year. In November, 1944 he was transferred to St. Thomas Parish in Jamaica Plain, and on October 14, 1952 he was named pastor of St. Elizabeth's in Acton. In November, 1967 he was honored for many years of devoted service to the church when he was elevated to the rank of Monsignor.

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The present rectory

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tory, as well as a new heating system and the redeco-
 rating of the parish community center, St. Elizabeth's
 Center, together with a second parking area equipped
 with night lighting.

The lower church received wiring repairs and was
 recently redecorated in a modern style including a new
 liturgical altar and repair of the pews. A new liturgical
 altar was installed also in the upper church, and more
 recently redecorating of the interior was completed.

Yet no church would judge its worth solely by its
 material achievements. Rather, the devotion and faith
 of its people are the significant elements. The Sodality
 of the Blessed Virgin Mary still flourishes, and the St.
 Vincent de Paul Society, the Holy Name Society and
 the Parish Council continually stimulate parish unity.

The Sisters of St. Joseph's from Our Lady's in
 Newton Corner and also from St. Columbkille's in
 Brighton as well as the seminarians from St. John's
 Seminary and our own Confraternity of Christian
 Doctrine steadily endeavor to instill in our children an
 intelligent grasp of their faith and the resolve to follow
 its precepts.

Religious devotions include many now fallen into
 disfavor in other parishes. Rosary devotions are con-
ducted each weekday evening during the months of
 May and October, and First Friday Adoration is held
 on the first Friday of each month throughout the year.
 First Holy Communion is held in May with the May
 Procession following shortly thereafter. The Novena
 of Grace is also offered in the spring, and on Memorial
 Day a colorful Mass is celebrated at the lovely outdoor
 altar in St. Mary's Cemetery.

The parish has kept up with changes in the liturgy,
 turning its altars around, implementing 5:30 P.M.
 Masses on Saturday and Sunday, and adopting enthusi-
astically the many changes occurring in the Mass it-
self. The generosity of the people was most evident
 during Cardinal Cushing's recent fund raising drive
 when our goal of $90,000 was surpassed.

Our parish comprises about 615 families and 2,000
 souls, geographically widespread and differing in national
 origins, but all united in a spiritual family by the
 bonds of God's love. Our deepest unity is to be
 found in Christ at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and
 in our continued sacramental activity. With the help
 of God's grace, we shall continue towards our fulfill-
 ment under the patronage of His gift to the world —
 Mary Immaculate.

A recent May procession prepares to enter the church
Centennial Book Sponsors

Mrs. Crescenza Angino
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Mr. Thomas L. Barry
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Miss Ruth F. Hindenlang

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Mr. and Mrs. Dante G. Iodice
Mr. Bronislaw Jacobs
Miss Josephine P. Kalin
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Kalinowskas
Mrs. Elizabeth Kalinowskas
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Kandar
Mrs. John J. Kerivan
In Memory of Alfred G. Kerr, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Lambert
Mr. and Mrs. Philip B. Lavelle
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Lavin
Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. LeBlanc
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Leebor
Mr. and Mrs. V. Lempitski
Miss Emmalene T. Letourneau
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph J. Letourneau
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Loohan
Mr. and Mrs. James T. Looney
Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Lopez
Dr. and Mrs. I. Alden Macchi
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Marietti
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Matheriewicz
Miss Dorothea M. McCarthy
Mrs. Margaret McCarthy
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. McCarty
Mr. and Mrs. John McDonald
Mrs. Martin McDonough
Mr. Andrew McGivney
Miss Anne R. McGivney
Mrs. Henry A. Melsaax
Mr. Robert B. McLaughlin
Mrs. William T. Melia
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Mendolia
Mrs. Edward A. Moan
Mrs. Ann M. Morrison
The Mulhern Family
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Mullen
Miss A. Eleanor Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. George Murphy
Miss Katherine T. Murphy
Miss Margaret K. Murphy

Mr. and Mrs. James Murray
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Nally
Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Novia
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. O’Connor
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. O’Halloran
Miss Elizabeth M. O’Hearn
Mr. Thomas V. O’Leary
Miss Emma R. Penney
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Pettigrew
Mr. and Mrs. John Precious
Miss Mary D. Prendergast
Mrs. Walter L. Prendergast
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Record
Miss Catherine Regan
Mr. Joseph W. Regan
Mr. and Mrs. Festus Roach
Miss Cecilia C. Romas
Mr. Sigmund T. Romas
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Ronayne
Miss Mary Sampson
Miss Ann V. Sanguinetti
Mr. and Mrs. Philip N. Savage
Mrs. Donato Schiavone
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Shaughnessy
Miss Anelia Sienczuk
Miss Frances Smith
Mrs. Harold T. Sprague
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Springfield
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Stevenson
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Stevenson
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stoltze
Miss Mary Stuart
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Sullivan
The Sullivan Family
Miss Marie M. Sullivan
Miss Mary M. Sullivan
Mrs. Mary Szylkonis
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Taylor, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Travers
Mrs. Mary E. Valente
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Vallee
Mrs. Harold C. Vlass
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Walker
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Walker, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Yelinek
Locations of Historical Interest
Past and Present

1  St. Elizabeth's Center
2  Present rectory
3  Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church
4  Elliot Hall

5  House of Edward Cahill
6  St. Mary's Church
7  Original Rectory
8  Site of lawn parties
In the middle 1870's Father Dolan purchased a tract of land bounded by Cedar Street, Wellesley Avenue and Hunnewell Street in the town of Needham. This was to be a burial place for the people of the parish which at that time was substantially larger than it is today. At the present time the cemetery serves all of the parishes in this area.

During the depression of the 70's, Father Dolan employed the needy of the parish at a dollar per day to build walls, construct driveways and perform other work required to open the cemetery. Among the first to be buried were Edward Cahill, Patrick Kerivan and Mary Kerivan whose bodies were moved from Piety Corners Cemetery in Waltham, where many from the Upper Falls had been laid to rest.

During Father Danahy's pastorate an heroic "Crucifixion Group" was erected on a knoll facing the main entrance which, however, became weather damaged to a degree requiring its removal.

Father Donovan, who was very much interested in the cemetery, cleared and repaired the markers on many of the older graves which through neglect had become overgrown with briars. He also inaugurated the celebrating of Mass at the cemetery on Memorial Day, a beautiful custom continued to this day, at which time the place is at its loveliest, with the flower blossoms everywhere contrasting with the deep green of the freshly cut grass.

Father O'Connell, continuing the work, arranged for perpetual care as part of the lot charge so that now the maintenance is performed by full time workers instead of by volunteers as formerly. In addition, he established a system of preparing new sections in anticipation of further growth.

Father Wall, in turn, proceeded with the overall planning and beautifying of the Cemetery. New drive-
ways were opened, the foot paths and depressions were levelled allowing the entire area to be machine mowed, and a brick chapel was constructed. A permanent altar was erected to replace the Crucifixion Group as well as bronze Stations of the Cross mounted on rustic stands along the winding road from the main entrance to the altar. The large glacial boulder at the north-western portion of the cemetery was cleared and a marble version of the famed "Pieta" was placed on it, with its beauty intensified by flood lighting during the soft summer evenings.

Monsignor Riordan has evidenced an intense interest in the cemetery, and may be seen many fine mornings in his flowing robes directing the work of the caretakers in opening new areas, maintenance work and in various beautifying projects.

The place of most interest to us, quite naturally, is the resting place of our own dead, but perhaps we might occasionally say a prayer at the "Sisters Lot" where are buried some of the Sisters of Charity of Halifax from Wellesley, and also at the "Priests Lot" where are buried the Rev. Martin O'Brien (whose body was moved from the church lot on Chestnut Street), the Rev. Timothy J. Danahy, the Rev. Hugh M. Smith of St. Joseph's in Needham as well as the Rev. Dennis H. Donovan.

Not to be forgotten is the burial place of the Rev. Michael E. Begley, the first young man from the parish to enter the priesthood whose grave is marked by a memorial cross, the gift of his Weymouth parishioners, and also that of the Rev. Bernard J. Smith, also from this parish, who was at St. John's Parish in Cambridge at the time of his death.

St. Mary's Cemetery – a simple yet lovely country burial ground lying like a jewel amid the encircling hills. Truly, here is a sacred tribute to God's love and mercy.
I Remember When . . .
A Collection of Reminiscences
by Parishioners

I remember Father Danahy as a very severe type of person. He wanted the children to go to Mass every morning. We would hide on our way to school, but if he saw us he would drag us into church.

The eight o'clock Mass was Father Danahy's. He would have the last six pews roped off so that the people would have to move farther to the front. Promptly at eight o'clock he would lock the doors of the church so that nobody could come in late.

On the Sunday before All Souls Day in November we would leave Sunday school early and walk all the way up to St. Mary's Cemetery where we would recite the Rosary. It was a long walk for us, and we were pretty cold by the time we got back.

I recall Bishop Williams as a kindly, white-haired man. He had a summer cottage right near Kendrick's Bridge in Newton Centre. This would have been about 1887. I remember a poor farm in Waban. Some of the people from there used to walk up to our church for Mass.

People nowadays have forgotten what it's like to walk. My mother came here about a hundred years ago as a new bride from the midwest, and she and my father used to walk all the way to Watertown for Mass.

I remember Father Cornelius Riordan. He was a very fine person and had an excellent voice. He used to teach the children to sing in connection with the little plays that were put on by the Sunday school.

I thought of Father Wall as a warm, friendly person. He felt that the children should have something to eat before Sunday school after fasting for Communion, and so he arranged with some of the ladies of the parish to serve them crackers and cocoa after Mass.

He started the Stations of the Cross at the cemetery, and it was very pleasant to go to the cemetery for them on a Sunday afternoon.

Father Wall loved flowers and laid out the shrubs and shrine at the rear of the rectory. He also started the custom of having the May and October Devotions outside on pleasant evenings.

I recall very well Father Donovan who was the pastor after Father Danahy and who had been curate prior to that. Father Danahy was a difficult person to live with, but Father Donovan was a very genial person and knew how to get along with him. When he was made pastor, someone remarked that he should have been made Pope instead.

Father Donovan was a very large man. The parishioners raised some money and bought him a Ford, but he couldn't fit into it so we had to buy him a larger car instead. He owned a tiny Chihuahua dog and you would see him riding about the parish in his big car with the little dog riding on the seat beside his shoulder. If anyone commented about the dog he would say, "He's got papers as long as your arm."
Father Danahy used to dramatize the sacraments for the children. He would use a large doll for Baptism. He would have a mock marriage ceremony for Marriage, and there are some still in the parish today who were "married" by Father Danahy. For Extreme Unction he would have one of the children "laid out" on a table and he would go through the prayers and anointings, ending up with the "burial."

He had two dogs named Winter and Easter which would follow him as he rode about the parish on horseback. One of the dogs died and when the prayers for the dead were said after Mass, Father Danahy would include the dog's name. There was a priest who was buried in a plot at the front of the church on Chestnut Street, and Father Danahy wanted to bury the dog there also but Cardinal O'Connell wouldn't let him.

Father O'Connell was a rather reserved person, hard to get to know well. Although some people thought he was rather grouchy, he was actually a warm and understanding person, anxious to do his best for the parish.

He supervised the building of the new rectory on Elliot Street. He would see boards with cracks in them and tell the contractor, "I've paid for first class lumber. Take them out!"

Father O'Connell died while performing a wedding ceremony. Father Mulcahy finished the wedding ceremony, but the Mass which normally followed was said at a later date.

When Father Donovan was pastor there was a Holy Hour consisting of Rosary, Benediction, readings and meditation every Friday evening. Afterwards we would stop off at a meat store on High Street to leave our order for the week and to pick up some lamb chops to have with fried potatoes for breakfast the next morning.

When Father McCarthy came from Watertown to say Mass at St. Mary's Church just after it was built in 1867, he often said he would curse anyone who left before Mass was over. My grandmother used to leave early. She was rather a short woman and once when she was in a hurry she started to run. She had just gotten up to Colburn's dry goods store on Chestnut Street when she got a cramp in her leg. "Glory be to God," she said, "it didn't take him long to curse me."

I was born in a seventeen room house which was built of lumber taken from a ship captured in the War of 1812 and brought out to Newton by oxen and drays. Later on we moved to Needham, and ours was only the second house on Highland Avenue at that time. One time about eighty years ago the bridge across the Charles River was washed out and Father Martin O'Brien came across the river on temporary planking to give us Communion.
During Father Donovan's time, the old church was used as a hall and known as St. Mary's Hall. There was a stage where the altar had been for minstrel shows, and the hall was also used for basketball games which were organized and run by Father Lyons for a number of years.

Father Driscoll and Father Lyons used to cut through my back yard on their way from the rectory which was still on Chestnut Street up to the church on Elliot Street. They would stop off in my kitchen for a piece of the delicious lemon pie that we always had.

I recall Father Mulcahy as an extremely warm and friendly person to everyone. He was very devoted to his family and loyal to his close friends in the parish with whom he still keeps in touch to this day.

He had a small discussion and study group—not large, perhaps seven or eight of us. We would meet twice a month and at the end of the year we would take a day trip to a shrine or some other place of interest. I remember in particular the visit we made to a Trappist monastery in Spencer, Massachusetts.
If you have ever been in a little village in Ireland, Italy, Spain or France at noonday when campanile bells ring for the Angelus, you will see women bow their heads, men take off their hats and all cross themselves as they pray in their native tongues. The Angelus is a prayer commemorating the Incarnation of Christ, and recalls the announcement to Mary by the Archangel Gabriel that she had been chosen to be the Mother of Christ.

The Angelus developed over many centuries. During the early Middle Ages, bells were used for many purposes including the calling of people to prayer. An early intention for such prayer at the evening bell was for peace, which is why the bell itself is called the peace bell. Beginning in the year 1269 with the Franciscans, three Hail Mary's were recited at this prayer bell with some variations up until the sixteenth century when the versicles were added to separate the Hail Mary's.

The present form of the Angelus took shape when Pope Benedict XIII in the early part of the eighteenth century granted a hundred days indulgence each time it was recited, and a plenary indulgence once a month (under the usual conditions) if it had been said three times daily on the knees at the ringing of the bells.

Shortly before his death Pope Pius XII said, "Revive the practice of reciting the Angelus at noon each day as a prayer for world peace and for aid to the Church, which finds itself confronted with many problems." In the morning, noon and evening the Angelus rings out from the lovely campanile tower of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church, a message of hope from the bells of peace to all in the parish.

To pause for a few moments to say the Angelus is an excellent means of spiritual recollection. It can be recited anywhere in private - at the office or factory, in the home or even while walking along the street. By the daily recitation of the Angelus we can bring peace to our souls, and to the world, as well as assist the Church in her divine mission – to bring all to Christ.
The Angelus Prayer

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary;
R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.
    Hail Mary, full of grace . . .

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
R. Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary, full of grace . . .

V. And the Word was made flesh;
R. And dwelt amongst us.
    Hail Mary, full of grace . . .

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God;
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord.

AMEN.