

**Parish History of St. Mary's/  
Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish,  
Needham, Newton Upper Falls, Newton Highlands**

**134 Years of Faith and Devotion**

The following history is taken from the booklets published on the 100th anniversary of the parish in 1970 and the 130th anniversary in June 2000.



**This picture, painted by L.A. Nazzaro, appeared on the cover of the 1970 booklet.**

**Pastors/Administrators**



**Rev. Michael Dolan**



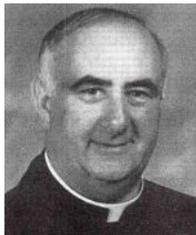
**Rev. Dennis Donovan**



**Rev. Alexander J. McCarthy**



**Rev. Michael F. Doocey**



**Rev. Kenneth A. LeBlanc**

Rev. Michael X. Carroll  
1870-1871

Rev. Michael Dolan                      1871-  
1885

Rev. Martin O'Brien                      1885-  
1890

Rev. Timothy J. Danahy                      1890-  
1923

Rev. Dennis H. Donovan                      1923-  
1934

Rev. William J. O'Connell                      1935-  
1950

Rev. Alexander J. McCarthy                      1950

Rev. Msgr. John R. Wall                      1950-  
1957

Rev. Msgr. Daniel F. Riordan                      1957-  
1970

Rev. Michael F. Doocey                      1970-  
1994

Rev. Joseph L. Welsh                      1993-  
1995

Rev. Stephen A. Koen, II  
1995-2002

Rev. Kenneth A. LeBlanc  
2002 - present



**Rev. Timothy Danahy**



**Rev. William O'Connell**



**Rev. Daniel F. Riordan**



**Rev. Stephen A. Koen,II**

## MARY IMMACULATE CLERGY LIST

### Assistants (Incardinated)

1880-1885 ....Rev. Michael E. Begley	1947-1948 ....Rev. Joseph E. Ryan
1886-1888 ....Rev. Daniel J. Gleeson	1948-1949 ....Rev. Joseph F. Donoghue
1888-1889 ....Rev. Nathaniel J. Merritt	1949-1949 ....Rev. Edmund L. Loughlin
1889 ....Rev. J.M.Gallagher	1949-1950 ....Rev. Francis P. Foley
1889-1890 ....Rev. Matthew J. Flaherty	1951-1951 ....Rev. Alfonso G. Palladino
1890 ....Rev. T.J. Murphy	1954-1954 ....Rev. Philip J. King
1892 ....Rev. Edward Connolly	1957-1957 ....Rev. Francis A. Regan
1893-1905 ....Rev. Cornelius J. Riordan	1957-1959 ....Rev. William C. Carroll
1906 ....Rev. Michael F. Callahan	1959-1964 ....Rev. Joseph E. McDonald
1906-1908 ....Rev. Frederick J. Allchin	1964-1971 ....Rev. Stanislaus Miaskiewicz
1907-1923 ....Rev. Dennis H. Donovan	1966-1966 ....Rev. Nicholas J. Mullen, S.M.
1914-1917 ....Rev. Eugene A. Maguire	1971-1977 ....Rev. Robert L. Connors
1923-1928 ....Rev. Msgr. Frederick G. Driscoll	1978-1981 ....Rev. Robert P. Deeley
1928-1929 ....Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Houlihan	1978-1979 ....Rev. Robert J. Doherty
1928-1932 ....Rev. John D. Lyons	1981-1983 ....Rev. Gilbert S. Phinn
1932-1934 ....Rev. William E. Kerrigan	1983-1985 ....Rev. Thomas F. Nestor
1931-1939 ....Rev. Daniel F. Dunn	1985-1986 ....Rev. John B. McCormack
1939-1944 ....Rev. Thomas A. Dwyer	1988-1993 ....Deacon George H. Messinger Sr.
1944-1947 ....Rev. Joseph C. Foley	1991-1992 ...Rev. Mark A. Mahoney
1947-1955 ....Rev. Msgr. John J. Mulcahy	



**Fr. Francis Higgins**



**Fr. David Roberts**



**Fr. Pascal Scallon**



**Fr. Dan O'Connell**



**Fr. Isaam Abi-Khalil**



**Fr. Tom Nestor**



**Fr. Barry O'Sullivan**



**Fr. Adrian Morrin**



**Fr. Carl Tranter**



**Fr. Michael McPartland**



**Fr. Bob Connors**



**Msgr. John Mulcahy**



**Fr. Paul Daly**



**Fr. Vincent S n chal**



**Fr. Ignatius Chong**



**Seminarian Kai Reinhold**



**Fr. Didier Roquigny**



**Fr. Theodore Taylor**



**Fr. Witold Kania**

**Assistants (Non-Incardinated) Dates Unknown**

Rev. Isaam Abi-Khalil	Beirut, Lebanon
Rev. Anthony Chiamonte	Albany, NY
Rev. Ignatius Chong	Korea
Rev. Dan Cipar, MSC	Warrensburg, MO
Rev. Sam Clyne	Dublin, Ireland
Rev. Paul Daly	Manchester, UK
Rev. Col. Jake Doonan	Milton, MA
Rev. Aloysius Fernandez	Alleppey, Kerala, India
Rev. James Fitzmaurice	Johnstown, NY
Rev. John Franzman	Bowral, Australia
Rev. James L. Gahan	St. Charles, MO
Rev. Perry Gildea, C.M.	Twidkenham, London, UK
Rev. Bernard F. Grega	Conemaugh, PA
Rev. Thomas Granham, S.P.S	Boston, MA
Rev. Francis P. Higgins	Luton, Bedfordshire, UK
Rev. Witold Kania	Katowice, Poland
Rev. Michael B. MacPartland, S.M.A	Falkland Islands
Rev. Anthony T. Marteka..	Grafton, MA
Rev. Richard A. McGowann, S.J.	Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

Rev. Noel Molloy	Wahroonga NSW Australia
Rev. Adrian Morrin	Buckley, Flintshire, UK
Rev. Msgr. Frederick J. Murphy	Boston, MA
Rev. Dan O'Connell	Dublin, Ireland
Rev. Michael O'Connor	Chicago, IL
Rev. Barry O'Sullivan	Manchester, UK
Kai Reinhold	Germany
Rev. David J. Roberts	Shaw Heath, Stockport, UK
Rev. Didier Roquigny	LeHavre, France
CH. MAJ. Barry E. Ryan	Montgomery, AL
Rev. Pascal Scallon	Belfast, Ireland
Rev. Vincent Sénéchal	Le Mans, France
Rev. Thomas Sickler	Brooklyn, CT
Rev. Michael Smith Foster	Newton, MA
Rev. Theodore Taylor	Barbados
Rev. Joseph Taylor	Salthill, Galway, Ireland
Rev. Carl Tranter	Staffordshire, UK

**Religious Vocations from the Parish**

Rev. Michael E. Begley, deceased

Rev. William Burke, S.J.

Rev. William S. Carpenger

Rev. Richard F. Cronin

Rev. Msgr. Edmund Daley, deceased

Rev. Leo J. Geraci, C.S.S., deceased

Rev. Robert Langlois, S.M.

Rev. Victor Leeber, S.J.

Rev. William J. Melea

Rev. Joseph Meredith, deceased

Rev. Thomas F. Motherway, deceased

Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Murphy

Rev. Msgr. John E. Murphy

Rev. Robert F. Reardon

Rev. Bernard J. Smith, deceased

Rev. John E. Sheridan

Deacon George Messinger



**Msgr John Murphy & Sr. Mary Murphy**

Nancy Braceland	Sister Nancy Bernadette	Sisters of St. Joseph, Nashua, NH
Mary Corbett	Sister Mary Elizabeth	Sisters of St. Joseph, Framingham, MA
Agnes Dugan	Sister Miriam Joseph	Sisters of Charity, Halifax, deceased
Sophie R. Jacobs	Sister Mary Mammertus	Sisters of St. Joseph, Framingham, MA
Mary F. Murphy	Sister Mary Cordia	Sisters of Mercy, NY, NY
Winifred Shields	Sister Winifred Shields	Daughters of the Heart, deceased
Ann Stevenson	Sister Ann Stevenson	Sisters of Notre Dame, Lynn, MA

## **Church History of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish**

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 Eliot 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 Eliot Hall, located on High Street, although it was not until 1860 that Sunday Mass began to be celebrated on a regular basis.



**The home of Edward Cahill where the first Mass  
in Newton was said in 1843.**

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.



**St Mary's Church and Rectory as they appeared about 1905.**

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.

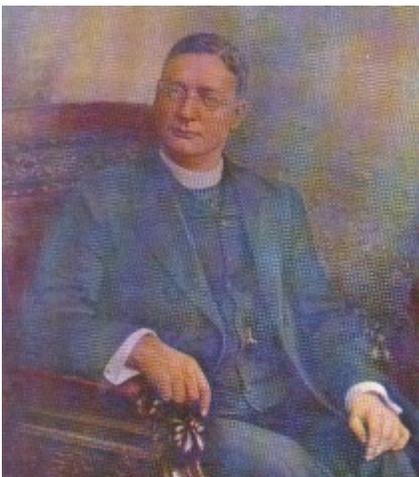


### **The sanctuary of St. Mary's Church**

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 is now 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 include Upper Falls, Waban, Oak Hill, part of Newton Highlands, part of Wellesley and all of Needham.

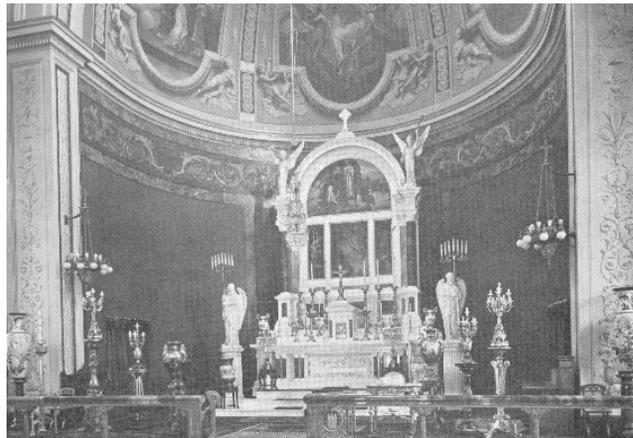
At Father O'Brien's death in 1890, there was appointed a most remarkable man, Father Timothy J. Danahy, who established some kind of record for longevity by remaining as pastor for a third of a century, his pastorate ending only at his death in 1923. Father Danahy was a dynamic, strong willed and colorful 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. Blaise before they became generally observed in the diocese. He also demonstrated a remarkable talent for raising 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 was 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.



### **The sanctuary of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church at its dedication**

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 that it could be inserted into its particular panel and which focus on Christ's descent from the Cross. Arched 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, Gonippo Raggi.



### **Paintings over the main altar: Annunciation, Assumption and Coronation**

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.



### **The Beautiful Stained Glass Window "Flight into Egypt"**

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.

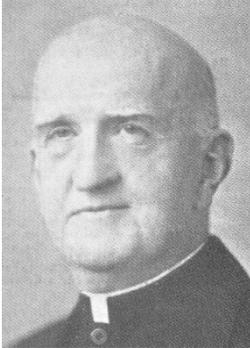
The building of the church cost \$150,000, an enormous sum for those days, and again it is a tribute to Father Danahy's wizardry at money raising and management that the entire indebtedness was paid off long before his death in 1923.

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 confessionals, pews and the Stations of the Cross from the old church. He was also 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 thirties 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 in 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 the 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 toward 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 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 the 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.

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 Present Rectory**

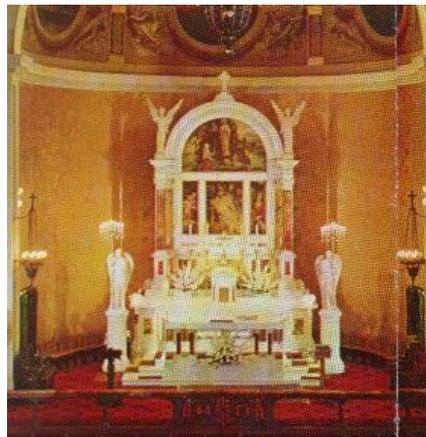
The bells in the campanile tower were electrified so that once again God's message of peace came ringing through the air to all. The unflinching generosity of the parishioners provided needed

refurbishing of the rectory, as well as a new heating system and the redecoration of the parish community center, St. Elizabeth's Center, together with a second parking area equipped with night lighting.



**St. Elizabeth's Center**

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.



**The Altar of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes in 1970**

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 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 conducted each weekday evening during the months of May and October, and the 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 5:30PM Masses on Saturday and Sunday, and adopting enthusiastically the many changes occurring in the Mass itself. 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 fulfillment under the patronage of His gift to the world - Mary Immaculate.



**This picture appeared on the cover of the 2000 booklet. The statue was donated by Adam and Connie Frissore and stands in the garden.**

In 1970, Reverend Michael F. Doocey (1970-1993) replaced Monsignor Riordan. Described as a simple and hospitable man, Fr. Doocey worked hard to enrich the spirituality of the parishioners, especially in the area of adult education.



**Fr. Michael F. Doocey with Bernard Cardinal Law**

It was also during Father Doocey's tenure that the enormous changes brought by the Second Vatican Council were initially introduced to Mary Immaculate. Assisted by his young and enthusiastic associate Father Bob Connors, numerous changes occurred in the parish. Folk music was introduced into the liturgies for the first time and architectural changes occurred such as removing the communion railing and turning the altar so the priest faced the people. Moreover, involvement of the laity in the ministry of the Church became even more strongly emphasized than it had in the past, by adding Parish Councils, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ministers to the Elderly.



**Fr. Koen and the Cardinal Before the Anniversary Mass**

After Father Doocey retired in December of 1993, Reverend Joseph L. Welsh (December 1993 - February 1995) was appointed administrator of Mary Immaculate. Although only temporarily assigned until a permanent pastor could be appointed, Father Welsh oversaw the refurbishment of the rectory and also set a new precedent by hiring Jim Imprescia, who serves as the Director of Music and Liturgy at Mary Immaculate. By February 1995, the Reverend Stephen A. Koen II became the eleventh pastor of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes. Since his installment, numerous improvements have been made to the physical plant and programs instituted in the parish. The bell tower of Mary Immaculate, long the hallmark of the parish, sorely needed interior reconstruction and this was completed in 1996 with the guidance of the reconfigured parish and finance councils. Additionally, Fr. Koen oversaw extensive modernization of equipment and facilities at St. Mary's Cemetery and in 1998, initiated and directed the exterior refurbishing of

the St. Elizabeth's Center. Current work is also underway to renew interior elements of the church.

During Father Koen's tenure and those of his recent predecessors, Mary Immaculate has benefitted tremendously from numerous visiting priests who have been in-residence at the parish and offered a strong spiritual presence and guidance. While working on degrees at Boston College or other assignments in the archdiocese, these priests have provided the parish with the most current theological teachings and ecclesiastical discussions. Their leadership and direction in the celebration of the Sacraments and religious education courses have drawn numerous individuals to the parish and continues to be a stimulating source of new energy for the congregation.



**The Altar of Mary Immaculate of Lourdes in May 2000**



**The View from the Altar**

While we have chronologically told the story of Mary Immaculate through the tenures of the pastors, a parallel history of parish organizations provides a fuller picture. These organizations are discussed above, in the earlier history. The Involvement of the laity has continued over the years. While some of the organizations no longer remain active, lay involvement in the parish continues in numerous endeavors including the choir, religious education instruction, ministers to the nursing homes and home bound of the parish as well as serving as liturgical ministers and parish councils.



**Cardinal Bernard Law Celebrating the Anniversary Mass in June 2000**

The involvement of the laity with the leadership and direction of the religious have allowed Mary Immaculate to continue a tradition of a faith community for 130 years. Moreover, her role as the Mother Church in the area has allowed numerous other parishes to thrive in their own right.



**Sanctuary in the Downstairs Chapel**



**Nina Herman, Sacristan 1950 - 1999**

Any long period of time contains many stories of triumphs and loss but this parish has remained at the core of many people's faith life.



### **Japanese Garden in Back of the Church**

On January 1, 1983, William H Stevens Jr. married Hiroko Ikeda at Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Church. Nine months later Hiroko was tragically killed when her Korean Airlines flight was shot down by the North Koreans. Mr. Stevens built this garden in her memory.