

My dear friends - one and all.

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Today we are gathered here in this historic Parish of the Sacred Heart, so intimately connected not only with the history of the City of Cambridge, but with the history of the Archdiocese of Boston. How can we remember the beginnings of this City without, at the same time, remembering the history of Sacred Heart Church, for it was in this precise

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And as the Church grew in those early days, the Catholic community of Cambridge contributed much to the religious and civic life of this noble City.

We think, first and foremost, of the renowned Saint John's Literary Institute -- the forerunner of the magnificent Catholic School system which, through the years, has contributed so much to parochial and civic life here in Cambridge.

Saint John's Literary Institute, founded in the ~~year 1842~~^{50's} by Father Lawrence Carroll, Pastor of old Saint John's Church, was established for the precise purpose of providing a fitting and adequate education for adults of the Cambridge area who, for one reason or another, had been deprived of the privilege of a formal education in the foreign lands from which they had emigrated.

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However, the great majority of those of us present here today are the direct beneficiaries of the wonderful Catholic education provided by the many dedicated religious sisters who, through the years, staffed the parochial schools of this city and carried on nobly the works of the apostolate of Catholic Education in this portion of the vineyard.

I know that I speak for all of you when I say, very sincerely, that we are personally and deeply indebted to these devoted religious women for the solid intellectual, moral and religious training which they provided for us. And not only should we be grateful. The whole Cambridge community should be grateful to them, for the whole community has, in so many ways, benefited from the wonderful education which so many of its sons and daughters received through the parochial school system maintained by the parishes of this city.

While the maintenance of a parochial school has been a strain, in recent years, on many parishes, we thank God for the goodly number of religious sisters who, in collaboration with devoted lay teachers, continue, in many instances, albeit with an element of some sacrifice, to carry on the important apostolate of Catholic education in many of the parochial communities of this city. In this accomplishment, the Catholic community of Cambridge can take justifiable pride. And in this ongoing endeavor on the part of many parishes, the whole Cambridge community continues to remain indebted for the wonderful education which is being provided for so many of its citizens.

As we continue to reflect on the many significant contributions which the Catholic community -- its clergy, religious and laity -- has made to the history of this venerable City of Cambridge, a further source of enrichment to this community -- both Catholic and non-Catholic alike -- which comes to mind is that of The Sacred Heart Review. This Catholic periodical, which in the course of the years became a nationally known publication, was founded here in Sacred Heart Parish, Cambridge, by Monsignor John O'Brien, who served this parish and the Cambridge community with distinction for nearly fifty years. A powerful figure in the education circles of Cambridge, Monsignor O'Brien saw, as the primary purpose of The Sacred Heart Review, the raising of the religious and educational consciousness of its readers -- seeking always to inform and strengthen the faith of Catholics and to foster among those of other religious denominations a clearer understanding of Catholic principles and practices.

In this regard, The Sacred Heart Review was indeed, over many decades, a wonderful tool of evangelization, both here in Cambridge and throughout the United States as well.

I might add that it was under the pastoral guidance of Monsignor John O'Brien, with the encouragement of Archbishop John Williams, Fourth Bishop of Boston, that this beautiful Church of the Sacred Heart within which we worship today and offer this impressive Mass of Thanksgiving, was constructed.

The years of the pastorate of Monsignor O'Brien -- which extended from 1873 until nearly the second decade of this century -- saw the Church in Cambridge blessed with remarkable growth, leading to the erection of several new parishes:

Blessed Sacrament, Saint Patrick and Immaculate Conception.

The great influx of peoples emigrating, in the early years of this century, to our beloved country, also brought goodly numbers of Catholics to the Cambridge area. And the Church generously provided for the spiritual needs of these brothers and sisters in Christ. And so, during the episcopal administrations of both Archbishop Williams and His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell, numerous parishes were established for the precise purpose of ministering to these Catholic people in their native languages. They were staffed by priests who spoke their language and were familiar with their wonderful customs and traditions.

And so there were founded Saint Anthony's parish in 1902, which ministered to the needs of the many Portuguese Catholics who were then settling in the Cambridge area; Saint Hedwig Parish, in 1907, which cared for our Polish brothers and sisters in Christ; Immaculate Conception Church, in 1910, which served Catholics of Lithuanian extraction; Saint Francis of Assisi, in 1917, which ministered to the Italian Catholic community here in Cambridge; and Holy Cross Parish, in 1920, which served the pastoral needs of the Armenian Catholic Population of this City.

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City of Cambridge

5.

IN CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR WYLIE

October 20, 1980

ORDERED: That the Homily delivered by Bishop Daniel Cronin at Sacred Heart Church on October 11, 1980 be made a part of the record of this City Council; and be it further

ORDERED: That a copy of this Homily be transmitted by the City Clerk to the 350th Committee with a request that it be made a part of the official records of the City's 350th Anniversary Proceedings, in view of its rich content of historical information.

In City Council October 20, 1980.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul E. Healy".

Order # 5

S- 466

C. Wylie re: Homily to be made part of
the official record of the 350th Anniver-
sary Proceedings which was offered by
Bishop Daniel Cronin.

In City Council,

October 20, 1980

Copy sent to:

C. Wylie

31 Milk St, Boston

02109

10/22/80 (ll)

Copy sent to 350th

Committee 10/24/80 (ll)