



City of Cambridge

11.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 13, 1983

COUNCILLOR WALTER SULLIVAN

- WHEREAS: This City Council wishes to formally recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Sacred Heart Church, which will be celebrated with a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Church on Saturday, June 18, 1983 at 5:00 p.m.; and
- WHEREAS: The original parish church called Saint John's, was dedicated on September 3, 1843 and the late Reverend John Bernard Fitzpatrick was named its first pastor; the parish at that time comprised the towns of Cambridge, Somerville and surrounding suburbs; and
- WHEREAS: Upon Father Fitzpatrick's consecration as Coadjutor Bishop to Bishop by Benedict Fenwick on March 24, 1844, the Reverend Manasses Dougherty became pastor and remained for five years, solidifying the groundwork which his predecessor had made and in 1849 when Father Dougherty was named pastor of Saint Peter's Church, the Reverend George T. Riordan became pastor, followed by the Reverend Lawrence Carroll, who founded the famous St. John's Literary Institute, whose main purpose was to educate older people who were deprived of an education in foreign lands, as well as to aid young people who, in those days had to go to work at an early age; and
- WHEREAS: Through a succession of pastors from 1859 to 1874, each with their own style of spiritual leadership, brought the founding of the Sacred Heart Church at its present site, when in July of 1873 the late Reverend John O'Brien obtained deeds to the lot of land at the corner of Sixth and Otis Streets; and
- WHEREAS: The people of Sacred Heart were most fortunate to receive as pastor in 1917 the Reverend Hugh F. Blunt, LL.D, a priest nationally known in the literary world, as well as an administrator of the highest order, serving the people of the parish for twelve years and was succeeded by the Reverend Joseph P. Mahar, followed by the Reverend James J. Walsh on April 30, 1941; and
- WHEREAS: In January of 1951, the Reverend Michael F. Costello was appointed Administrator of Sacred Heart, being named pastor in 1955, serving the parish community with distinction and tireless dedication through a series of major crises, not the least of which was the devastating fire which occurred on June 29, 1963, two short months before Father Costello was named Domestic Prelate with the title of Monsignor; and
- WHEREAS: Monsignor Costello led Sacred Heart back from the perils of defeat during the period in which both schools were closed and the fire, and unfortunately, due to illness, retired in 1975 and was replaced by the Reverend George D. Vartzelis, who like Monsignor Costello, has truly revitalized the parish and its adjunct activities, including, but not limited to establishing an oratory for daily mass, conversion of the lower church into a parish hall, as well as making the church a focal point of spiritual and religious accomplishments; and

- WHEREAS: Sacred Heart Church ahs been the scene of the 25th Anniversary of the ordination of Father Vartzelis, as well as the 350th Anniversary of the City of Cambridge; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its sincere congratulations to Father George Vartzelis and the people of Sacred Heart Church in this most happy and joyous occasion; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Father Vartzelis on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council June 13, 1983.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul E. Healy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the "ATTEST:-" text.

Order # 11 S-356

C.W. Sullivan re: in honor of the 100th
Anniversary of the Sacred Heart Church.

In City Council,

June 13, 1983

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