



City of Cambridge

#34

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 20, 1991

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Councillor Walsh

Sullivan Cgr.

Russell Toomey

WHEREAS: Father William D. Walsh, Pastor of Saint Peter's Roman Catholic Church on Concord Avenue, Cambridge, is commemorating the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood and will celebrate its public recognition on Sunday, May 26, 1991 in the midst of his parishioners; and →

WHEREAS: The determined and dynamic vision of Father Walsh that the renovation of Saint Peter's Church itself would be the cornerstone in the renewal of the parish community's life has been proven by the tremendous response given to both; and

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WHEREAS: In the Church, as in all of society's institutions, a careful balance must be struck and preserved between how leaders lead the people and how the people lead the leaders. Father Walsh not only strikes and preserves that balance, he does both very well; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this Council conveys congratulations to Father William D. Walsh on this occasion of his 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Catholic Priesthood, expresses appreciation for his contributions to the life of our Cambridge community and wishes him many years of successful pastoral presence among the people of St. Peter's Parish; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this Resolution and assure that same will be delivered to Father Walsh prior to the public celebration on May 26, 1991 on behalf of the entire City Council.

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a mass of celebration culminating

a quarter century of religious commitment

to the people of the Archdiocese of Boston, which

began at Saint John's Parish in East Bridgewater,
continuing at

~~moving to~~ Saint Margaret's Parish in Dorchester and later
becoming

in 1985 ~~became~~ the ninth pastor of Saint Peter's

Church in Lowell, and

(3)

being seen as a warm personable individual

by nature; he has brought a sense of spirituality

that has been well received by all.

he was an Auxiliary Bishop of Boston, he remained as our pastor until 1976. In 1959 a new parish high school for girls was built. Bishop Riley attended and was involved in the meetings of Vatican II and as a result of this we became a leader in "the opening of the windows" in our Faith. Relations were developed with neighboring non-Catholic churches which heretofore had been minimal.

Bishop Riley retired in 1976 and was succeeded by Father Bernard J. Herlihy. In 1977 one of the first factors to be considered by Father Herlihy was the continuation of St. Peter's High School for Girls. Due to a steady decline in enrollment, Father Herlihy, in consultation with Archdiocesan leaders and in agreement with parish advisors, decided that the school should be closed and that this facility be used to house St. Peter's Grammar School. The high school building included a cafeteria and auditorium/gymnasium. Under Father Herlihy's direction negotiations were held with a firm Cambridge Company, which resulted in a long-term lease of the former grammar school building, which is a financial asset. The Smithsonian Institute occupies this building and there is a good relationship among parish/lessee/tenant. Father Herlihy's tenure as pastor was marked by spiritual growth and sound fiscal decision.

Since July 1986 Father William D. Walsh has been our ninth pastor. A warm personable individual by nature he has brought a sense of spirituality that has been well received by all. One of his first major decisions was to restore our upper church, which had been closed since 1975. This was received with enthusiasm by all of the parishioners and is discussed in great length in the following pages.

Every generation has left its mark on St. Peter's Church. As we approach our one hundred and forty-second year we can reflect with joy upon those who came before us, they gave us what we have in faith and structure. The flame of faith which they held is now passed to us.

Today, St. Peter's stands on the threshold of excitement - the renovation and reopening of our upstairs' church. Church attendance is on an increase; young children are attending in large numbers, particularly at the special children's Mass at 10:00 a.m. on the third Sunday of each month. Our parishioners range from the life-long resident to the transient university community, from low- and middle-income residents to successful business people. The demographics of our parish have changed, but as stated earlier our loyalty to our faith and Church have been steadfast.

As we assess our parish needs in preparation for the parish visitation, and restoration of the upper church during 1990, let us remember we are now the Keys of St. Peter, the rock upon which we and future generations will benefit in faith and worship.

St. Peter's Rectory
31 Buckingham Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

May 26, 1991

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Thank you for being with me and offering this Mass of Thanksgiving. Your presence is a blessing.

For twenty-five years I have joyfully shared in the priesthood of the Lord Jesus. The Lord has been good to me, and I shall spend the rest of my days thanking God for his great goodness.

may 26, 1966 In 1966 I was ordained by Cardinal Cushing. St. John's Parish, East Bridgewater, was my first assignment for two exciting years. The next ten years were happily spent at St. Margaret's Parish, Dorchester. For seven years I enthusiastically ministered at the Quincy City Hospital and St. John's Parish, Quincy. In 1985 I was appointed Pastor of St. Peter's Parish, Lowell. I loved Lowell and the wonderful people. In 1986 Cardinal Law appointed me Pastor of St. Peter's Parish, Cambridge, where no pastor could ask for more cooperative and loving people. It is a joy to be your pastor.

My priestly ministry has brought me to the ends of the Archdiocese. I thank God for my vocation to the priesthood and encourage anyone to accept the call from the Lord.

Love,

W. Walsh

(Rev.) William D. Walsh

- 1986 - ¹month pastor of St. Peter's
- Page 2 - para 3
- Christmas, 1990 - Restoration completed
+ mass celebrated after 17 years - upstart
church - leadership - spiritual



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

May 20, 1991

COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR CYR
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: Father William D. Walsh, Pastor of Saint Peter's Roman Catholic Church on Concord Avenue, Cambridge, is commemorating the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood and will celebrate its public recognition on Sunday, May 26, 1991 in the midst of his parishioners, a mass of celebration culminating a quarter century of religious commitment to the people of the Archdiocese of Boston which began at Saint John's Parish in East Bridgewater, continuing at Saint Margaret's Parish in Dorchester and later in 1985 becoming the ninth Pastor of Saint Peter's Church in Lowell; and

WHEREAS: The determined and dynamic vision of Father Walsh that the renovation of Saint Peter's Church itself would be the cornerstone in the renewal of the parish community's life has been proven by the tremendous response given to both; and

WHEREAS: In the Church, as in all of society's institutions, a careful balance must be struck and preserved between how leaders lead the people and how the people lead the leaders. Father Walsh not only strikes and preserves that balance, he does both very well, being seen as a warm personable individual by nature; he has brought a sense of spirituality that has been well received by all; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this Council conveys congratulations to Father William D. Walsh on this occasion of his 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Catholic Priesthood, expresses appreciation for his contributions to the life of our Cambridge community and wishes him many years of successful pastoral presence among the people of St. Peter's Parish; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution and assure that same will be delivered to Father Walsh prior to the public celebration on May 26, 1991 on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council May 20, 1991.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk

Order # 34

S-681

Councillors Walsh, Sullivan, Russell,
Cyr, and Toomey resolutions on Father
William D. Walsh.

In City Council,

May 20, 1991

ORDER ADOPTED