



The First Decade

A Sound Start

The first decade of the new parish coincided with the pastorate of Father Nicholas J. Murphy who was assigned as the first resident spiritual leader of Saint Joseph's. Father Murphy devoted considerable attention to the practical needs of the Parish. He succeeded in placing the young parish on a sound financial basis. He also purchased the Barrett home on the corner of School and Common Streets to serve as a parish rectory.

Within the short space of two years, Saint Joseph's also acquired its first curate in the person of Father John I. Lane, who was able to give valuable assistance to the pastor in developing the spiritual vigor of the parish. One of his first moves was to organize the Women's Sodality, which is the oldest of the parish organizations.

Father Lane also played an important role in the founding of Maryknoll. He had been a seminary classmate of Father James Anthony Walsh and they had been fellow



Reverend Nicholas J. Murphy
First Pastor

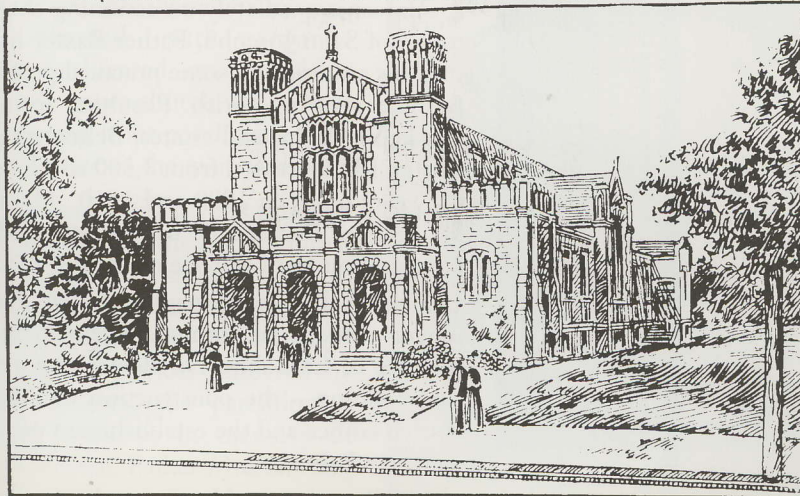
curates at Saint Patrick's in Roxbury. They shared a keen interest in the foreign missions and with a few other interested priests founded a Foreign Mission Bureau in Boston and became co-editors of a new bi-monthly magazine, *"The Field Afar"*.

When Father (later Bishop) Walsh, in 1912, received permission to establish the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of "Maryknoll", Father Lane's health did not permit him to engage in the vigorous preparations for the foreign mission field. However, his friendship and encouragement and practical assistance were very valuable for Father Walsh in the formative years of Maryknoll. Father Lane's special concern for the foreign missions has continued as a characteristic

of the members of Saint Joseph's Parish, many of whom have served as priests, sisters, and lay apostles in far off mission fields. Father Murphy was transferred to Saint John's Parish in Peabody, on December 10, 1910.

To Lay Cornerstone of New St. Joseph's Church

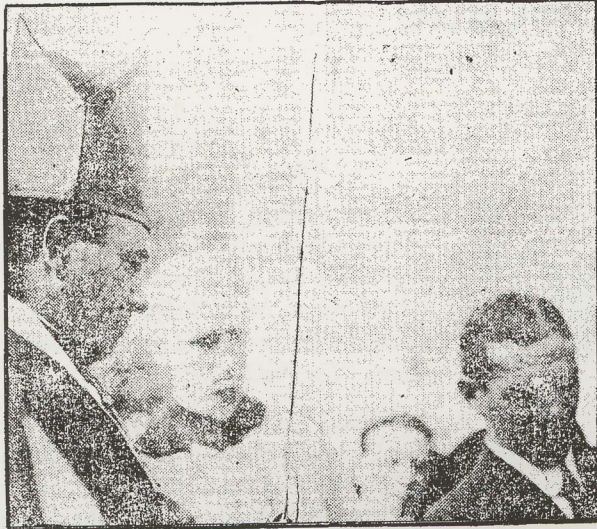
Cardinal O'Connell to Conduct Ceremony in Belmont—Notable Gathering of Clergy Expected to Attend—Beautiful Gothic Structure of Brick and Concrete



"Before a throng of men, women and children which included nearly every member of the parish, His Eminence Cardinal O'Connell, laid the corner-stone of the beautiful new edifice which is being erected for the members of St. Joseph's parish, Belmont, yesterday afternoon."

From the *Boston Sunday Post*,
October 6, 1912

Cardinal Lays Corner-Stone



CARDINAL O'CONNELL, OFFICIATING AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH IN BELMONT YESTERDAY.

BOSTON POST, MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1912

Presides at Ceremonies of St. Joseph's, Belmont—Congratulates Pastor and Parishioners

Before a throng of men, women and children which included nearly every member of the parish, His Eminence, Cardinal O'Connell, laid the corner-stone of the beautiful new edifice which is being erected for the members of St. Joseph's parish, Belmont, yesterday afternoon.

CEREMONIES IMPRESSIVE

The ceremonies incident to the occasion were very impressive. At two o'clock in the afternoon, Belmont Coun-

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cil, Knights of Columbus, wearing purple sashes, marched from the Waverley line to the church. Along the line of march, they were joined by the members of Division 47, A. O. H., and near the church by the members of the Holy Name Society. The men then formed in two lines extending from the new church building, past the rectory, to the old church, on either side of the steps were gathered boys and girls of the parish, and altar boys wearing red cassocks and white surplices.

Through these lines the cardinal, attended by Monsignor William P. McQuaide of St. James', Boston, and Monsignor Ambrose J. Roche of St. Patrick's, Watertown, and preceded by pastors from neighboring parishes, Monsignor P. J. Supple, D. D., of Roxbury, and the Rev. Joseph F. Copping of Brookline, proceeded to the old church building, entering at the side entrance, out through the front and through the files of children and men again, to the new church.

The cardinal blessed the spot where the altar will be, and the procession formed again and marched to the outside of the building, where the cardinal proceeded with the ceremony of laying the cornerstone. There was a choir of mixed voices, under the direction of Father J. Powers, assistant to the Rev. James J. Baxter, D. D., pastor of the parish.