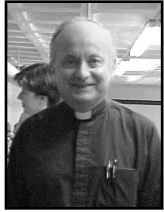


# Connections

The Newsletter of Immaculate Conception Parish

October 2001



*Dear Parishioners:*

A major event of our Sesquicentennial Celebration will be our Parish Mission Mon. Oct. 15 through Thurs. Oct. 18.

I hope that you plan to attend this Parish Spiritual Renewal which will be given by Msgr. Robert Ecker and Msgr. Thomas Campbell, both old friends of mine. Msgr. Ecker gave a Mission at my Parish some years ago, and attendance increased daily as word spread about his wonderful down-to-earth approach. By presenting this week of spiritual renewal and reflection, we encourage all of you, to enter into a journey of spiritual growth with an emphasis on prayer as a way of life.

I firmly believe the strength of our Parish lies in the spiritual vitality and quality of our parishioners and I invite you to pray that all of us will accept this challenge.

I welcome Msgr. Campbell and Msgr. Ecker and I welcome you to our Parish Mission. I pray that their efforts will enrich our Parish as a Center of Spirituality, Commitment, and Growth in the Faith.

Each day, there will be two Mission Services. Attend whichever one suits your schedule. In addition to the morning Mass at 7 AM, there will be an additional Mass and Presentation at 12:10 PM, and a Prayer Service and Mission Presentation at 7 PM. We hope your busy schedule will allow you to attend at least one service on each of these 4 days. The Mission ends with a Service of Thanksgiving and Commitment on Thurs. evening at 7 pm followed by a Parish Social. I hope that you can be with us, as together we approach the Lord through this week of spiritual renewal.

My Prayers and Best Wishes for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Rev. Edward J. Kelley

## Contact Information

Phone ..... 436-0048  
Fax ..... 436-8848  
Pastor: Father Edward Kelley ..... Ext. 7  
Pastoral Minister Gayl Callis ..... Ext. 9  
Secretary Constance Keep ..... Ext. 6

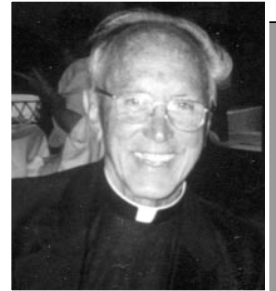
## PARISH *Spiritual* RENEWAL WEEK

### Monday, Oct. 15 - Thursday, Oct 18

Our recent national tragedy calls forth fundamental questions about life, ourselves, and our purpose. Immaculate Conception Parish will hold a **Week of Spiritual Renewal** as part of its 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration on **Monday, Oct. 15- Thursday Oct 18 at 7 pm** in the Church that will examine these questions. The theme of the Week is "Human Need- God's Response" which centers on the two Great Commandments – "love and serve the Lord, our God" and "our neighbors".

Our Spiritual Week will be conducted by **Mesrs. Robert Ecker and Thomas Campbell**. Both priests are from the Diocese of Brooklyn and New York, and are filled with human and spiritual experience. Fr. Ecker subsequently became a Navy Chaplain serving numerous tours, including Vietnam and at the US Naval Academy. Both now devote themselves to nurturing spiritual growth, and will be very active during the Week, including a **daily 12:10 Mass** and visits to shut-ins. The Week of Spiritual Renewal will give us guidance and the opportunity to find the answers the Holy Spirit provides for each of us.

Msgr. Robert J. Ecker is a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn currently studying in San Diego, California. After serving for several years in parishes in Brooklyn, he became a Navy Chaplain and has served in Greece, Washington D.C., Vietnam, Orlando,



**Msgr. Robert J. Ecker**

Annapolis, and Norfolk, Virginia. Msgr. Ecker follows the advice of St. Alphonsus, "Love God and Follow Your Heart." He believes in always being available to serve others. He comes to show us our need to put this philosophy into practice.



**Msgr. Thomas P. Campbell**

Msgr. Campbell comes to us from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Long Island City, New York. He is a native New Yorker who grew up during the depression and was ordained in 1943. In 1951, while on a trip to Lourdes, he underwent a mystical experience which deepened his prayer life.

His prayer life, he says, was further deepened during the turbulent 60's when he was principal of a large high school. He will share with us the value of prayer and contact with God in our lives.

## BARN DANCE



Dust off your dancing shoes! The Parish Life Committee invites you to an Old Fashioned Barn Dance on Saturday, October 27, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Greenleaf Recreation Center on Greenleaf Avenue in Portsmouth.

Professional caller, Tim Garneau of Somersworth, will be calling line, folk, and square dances for adults and kids of all ages. Tim appears courtesy of parishioners Mike and Sue Bilodeau, and we thank them for their generosity.

Food will include hotdogs, chips, assorted munchies, and an array of delicious desserts. Come on down and join the fun! For more information call Colette Howard at 431-9728 or Kate Gordon at 431-8920.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS!

- Dawn Beadle
- Robert & Adele Bean
- Elizabeth, Matthew & Leah Boudreaux
- Timothy J. & Amy Cashman & Mallory McCoy
- Meredith Colura
- Robert & Jennifer Creamer
- Timothy V. & Michelle Diep
- John Ducaji
- Kathleen & Austin Eisenhauer, & Christopher Thies
- John, Cheryl, Matthew, Alexandria & Justin Fratamico
- J. Stephen & Suzy Gagnon
- Nathaniel, Francine, Samuel, Margaret Heard
- Brian & Niki Horan
- Tasha Johns
- Daniel, Kara, Themas, & Michael Jolly
- Jennifer Keefe
- Ronald Kilway & Jennifer Lynn Eaton
- William & Juliann Lehne, Jr.
- Amy Lewis
- Ronald & Dawn L'Italien & Dawn & Alex Sinclair
- Stephen, Jessica & Chloe Lozan
- Sean Mahoney
- Monica Manotas
- John Marks
- Philip, Mary, Michelle & Amy Maurice
- John & Ginna McAuliffe
- Leonard & Margaret McAuliffe
- Tommy J. McCann
- Robert & Marcia McCarthy
- Norman Pokorny
- David, Rachel, Evan & Madeleine Proulx
- Edward Quinn
- James R. & Debbie Reese
- Robert J. & Lynda Riesbeck
- James Rushton
- Donald & Nidower Sargent
- Christine Sicinski
- Marc & Iracema Siegel
- Ann & Kirby St. Remy & Donovan Phanor
- Arthur R. Tobin III
- Valerie Vuk & Jessica, Zachary, & Rachel Hansen
- John Nichols Willerer
- Christopher York & Jennifer St. Laurent

## HEALTH NEWS FROM YOUR Parish Nurses

The Flu and Pneumonia season is here. Many people know that this is the time of year to get their flu shot but do you know why it is important?

One reason is that last year's flu shot will not protect you against the flu this year. Each year a new vaccine is needed to fight the ever changing flu virus. So you DO need a flu shot every year.

Some of the facts about flu and pneumonia:

- The elderly are at high risk of getting flu and pneumonia
- The most important thing you can do to decrease your risk is to receive the flu and pneumonia shot.
- The flu season is from October through March. This means its not to late to get a Flu shot in the late fall or winter.
- You CANNOT get the flu or pneumonia from the vaccine
- People who are allergic to eggs may not be able to get a flu shot, If you are allergic to eggs, talk to your health care provider before getting the flu shot.
- It is important to get at least one pneumonia shot in your lifetime. If you are not sure if you've had a pneumonia shot, talk to your health care provider.

Flu and pneumonia shots are FREE if you have Medicare Part B and go to a Medicare participating provider.

## RCIA Needs Sponsors and Prayer Partners

Have you ever thought that you would like to share your faith with someone who is learning about the Catholic Church? One important way that you might share your faith is as a sponsor of someone who is in the RCIA process. The Catholic Community of Immaculate Conception is searching for people to step forward as sponsors for people who are beginning this journey of faith.

Being a sponsor is like being a trusted friend. You share what you can and offer support and counsel as you are able to the extent that it is needed or desired. Relationships between sponsor and a catechumen is unique. Each candidate has a distinct history and personality that must be respected. The relationship might be challenging; however, the relationship is always rewarding.

Our parish is also hoping that some people will stop forward as prayer partner. In this ministry, a person is paired with an inquirer and asked to make a commitment to pray for that person daily throughout the initiation process. Prayer sponsors are welcome at any meeting, rite, or event but their formal commitment does not extend beyond daily prayer and friendly notes.

If you are interested in these ministries, contact Gayl Callis Pastoral Minister, at 4360048, ext. 9.

## Our Call to Stewardship *Using Our Gifts to Give Back in Thanks*

Ten years ago, the Bishops' Pastoral identified some of the important needs of the Catholic Church in a pastoral letter addressing the importance of stewardship in our parishes. Reminding Catholics of their calling as disciples, the Pastoral requested a response. One of our most important goals as a parish this year is to respond to this calling to stewardship.

Every one of us has many, many things to be grateful for. If you take just a minute to count your blessings - family, friends, career, home, community, hobbies - you might be very surprised. Stewardship is a way for us to use our gifts, particularly of talent and time, to give back in gratitude for all that we have. It is a way to merge our faith into our day-to-day lives.

You may ask, "What exactly IS stewardship?" The Bishop's definition of a steward from the 1992 Pastoral is one who:

- receives God's gifts gratefully
- cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable way (involvement)
- shares them in justice and love with all, and
- returns them with increase to the Lord

Being a good steward means thinking about - and responding to - the question: "What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus in a consumer culture?" It's a connection between the spiritual and the material worlds. It is a way of life - and the responsibility of each of us as Catholics.

Stewardship is rethinking our way of life so that we can be involved in the Lord's work in our community every day of our lives. The best way to respond to God's loving generosity is by reflecting on that generosity and incorporating that gratitude into our daily lives. Here are some of the ways we can do that:

- Reevaluate time spent in prayer and worship.
- Participate in the worship life of the community of Christians
- Commit to involvement in ministries at liturgy
- Take the time to pray each day
- Nurture relationships with family and friends
- Act out of loving concern on behalf of others
- Visit with someone who is lonely or despairing
- Use your talents creatively to volunteer

Parishes all over the country are celebrating the concept of stewardship. At Immaculate Conception, a special Stewardship Committee explored the Stewardship opportunities and their work yielded many exciting new projects and ways each parishioner can give back using his or her gifts. To understand how this fits into your life, attend the Week of Spiritual Renewal October 15-18. And plan to attend Stewardship Fair on November 3 and 4, as parishioners are invited to attend and learn and the many opportunities available.

# Sesquicentennial Parish Picnic: A Rousing Success!



What a wonderful time!  
The 150th Anniversary Parish Picnic on Sunday, September 17 at

Hilton Park was a rousing success. It was a time for good friends, delicious food, and great fun. Just ask any of the 200 or more people who attended.

The Lord blessed us with a perfect day, and a beautiful location. Myles Bratter and Randy Briolat handled most of the cooking duties, laying out a sumptuous feast of chilis, salsas (some hot, hot hot!), smoked meats, hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, and desserts.

Tim Lena set the mood with his wonderful music. He was joined by several parishioners who wowed us with their musical gifts. Thank you to everyone for sharing your talents with us.

Barry Foley had the kids (and Sister Bernadette) playing football, kickball, and soccer on the lawn. Kids were tumbling in the Jump & Tumble Bus, and bouncing in the Moonwalk, which was so generously donated by Marshall Rental Center of Kittery. Children were waiting in line to hold the Bratter's macaw, Rainbow. Meanwhile, our team of face painters painted their own rainbows on many little cheeks.

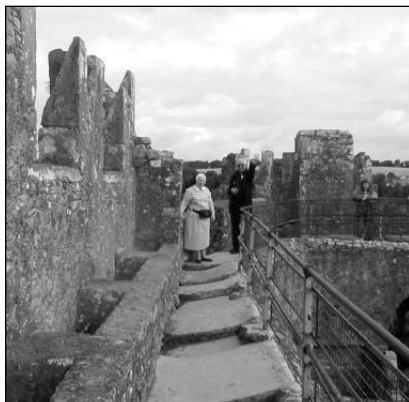
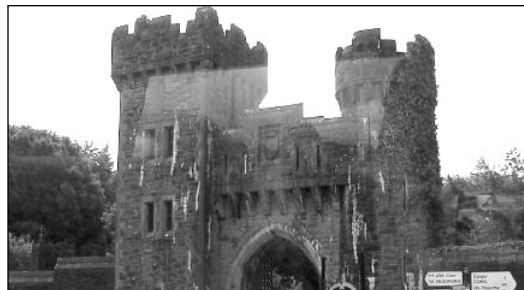
Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for sponsoring this event. Special thanks to Glen Gordon, Tom Cowgill, and Alan Vangile who were busy in the wee hours of the morning preparing the picnic area for us. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and talent to make the picnic a great success.

## Irish Trip Enjoyed by all Parish Travelers



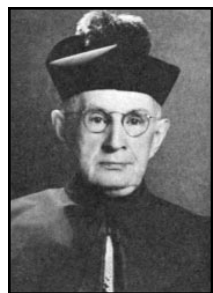
Those who took advantage of the parish trip to Ireland July 31 through August 8 had a wonderful time.

Many spoke of the weather as being "incredible, throughout the whole trip" and spoke with high regard to the tour director who offered a view of Ireland with insight, humor and a relaxed nature that helped to make the trip one that all will never forget!



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH HISTORY - 1944-1977

Father Brennan, under whose supervision the parish thrived, died on Christmas Eve, 1944 and was buried in Calvary Cemetery. He had been chaplain for all Catholic societies in the city and the Catholic vacationers at the Wentworth Hotel in New Castle. He was also a trustee of the Mark H. Wentworth home. Two days prior to his death, in commemoration of his fiftieth anniversary as a priest, a jubilee Mass was celebrated at the Immaculate Conception Church which was attended by the parishioners and other friends.



Rev. James E. McCooey

Rev. James E. McCooey, pastor of St. Bernard's Church, Keene, transferred to this parish as pastor on March 15, 1945. Father McCooey had previously been assigned to the parish in 1903. With him came Rev. Thomas F. Duffy, as assistant pastor.

During and after world War II many new families moved to the Portsmouth area. Father McCooey realized the crowded parochial school conditions would have to be dealt with in anticipation of larger enrollments. In August 1947 work started on interior renovations of the school building. In 1949 a \$80,000 building permit was issued for construction of a two-story annex at the rear of St. Patrick's School.

Completed in 1951 the annex provided 4 additional classrooms for 180 pupils. This building served as classrooms until the mid-70's after which it became Mercy House until 1985 when the financial burden became too great to warrant its continued use. It was razed in 1987.

In June 1951 the Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, Bishop of Manchester, announced a new church to be built in the city. A new parish, St. Catherine of Siena, was established by order of the Bishop on August 14, 1951 to serve the north and west sections of the Immaculate Conception parish. Construction began on October 23, 1951 on land on Woodbury Avenue. This land was purchased and presented to St. Catherine's parish as a gift from Immaculate Conception. The first pastor was the Rev. Patrick J. Kenneally, a native of Portsmouth and the Immaculate Conception parish. The new parish of St. Catherine of Siena was dedicated on December 1, 1952.

Monsignor McCooey died on July 11, 1953. He had been ill for several months. He celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 1948 and the honor of his promotion to Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII in 1951.

After the death of Monsignor McCooey, the Rev. J. Francis Happny transferred from the pastorate of Holy Trinity Church, Somersworth. He began a project for beautification of the church property. To celebrate 1954, the Marian Year, a statue of the Blessed mother was erected as a shrine to the Virgin Mary. Located on the left of the main entrance

to the church, this shrine was a project of the Catholic Youth Organization. The shrine was blessed by the Most Rev. Matthew Brady, D.D., Bishop of Manchester, on November 25, 1954.

Once again overcrowding at St. Patrick's School required corrective action. Pupils could not be accepted for enrollment as the nearly 700 youngsters at the school taxed its capacity. The Assembly Hall on the top floor of the school was renovated and became a classroom, and instruction was limited to the 8 grades of elementary school.

In 1955 renovation work to the church was begun. Exterior masonry was pointed and the church interior was restored. The interior was painted a soft green, with an altar background of aluminum leaf to give the appearance of rich tapestry. To finance this project parishioners were asked to make pledges to a special church repair

fund. The parishioners met the goal of \$50,000 set for this fund.

In the early spring of 1958 the Bishop established another parish in the city. Rev. Thomas F. Duffy, assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception, was appointed pastor of the new St. James parish. Immaculate Conception assisted in the formation of this new parish which served the growing residential area at the southerly and westerly boundaries of Portsmouth.

In September, 1957, Rev. J. Francis Happny, was raised to the rank of Domestic Prelate by the late Pope Pius XII, with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. On September 18, 1959, parishioners and clergy celebrated his Golden Jubilee with a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving. In 1966, Rev. Robert F. Griffin was appointed as administrator.

A union service by Protestant and Catholic clergy, a first in religious events in Portsmouth, was held on January 23, 1966, at the Immaculate Conception Church, with homilies and prayers by leaders of the Christian community.

In 1967 Monsignor Happny retired as pastor, residing in the rectory as "pastor emeritus." Reverend Francis L. Curran was appointed by the bishop on September 5, 1967 as pastor. Father Curran was pastor at Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Lakeport, NH. Not long afterwards the parish were saddened to hear of the death of Monsignor Happny on June 26, 1968.

Father Curran continued beautification the church and maintenance. Main entrance stained glass doors were installed and the floor and sanctuary of the church were carpeted enhancing the acoustics. The organ was rebuilt by craftsman Burton B. Witham of Gorham, Maine, for \$9,000. This organ was modified when installed in the present church, but the pipes and sound box, purchased in 1884 for the earlier church, were in need of repair. A monthly collection for parish development was initiated for these repairs and additions.

In 1967, Saint Patrick's School became the first regional elementary school in the diocese. Administration went to a principal-administrator and a 13-member governing board made up of representatives from the 3 parishes.

In keeping with the mandates of Vatican II, in 1970 a Parish Council was established to advise the pastor. Members elected by the parishioners annually.

Work was done to landscape and beautify the entrances and grounds of Calvary Cemetery. A gift of a chapel and receiving vault was made in memory of Walter L. and Mary Nawn Griffin. Construction began in the fall of 1971 and by January 10, 1972, all burials could begin and terminate in this chapel. On Sunday, May 21, 1972, the Most Reverend Ernest J. Primeau, Bishop of Manchester, blessed the Walter Griffin Memorial Chapel.

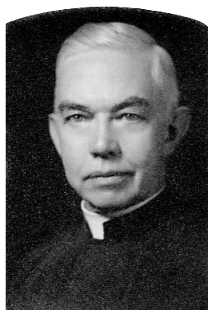
In 1973, Bishop Ernest J. Primeau issued a directive for the sanctuary to conform to the requirements of the new Mass liturgy calling for a eucharistic shrine concept. The altar and steps, the predellap and chancel rail were modified, the new Altar of Sacrifice was made with marble from the chancel rail. On March 17, 1974, the new altar and sanctuary were consecrated by the Most Rev. Ernest J. Primeau, Bishop of Manchester.

An occasion of great pride and joy took place on July 11, 1974, when two natives of the Portsmouth parish, Rev. Michael J. Griffin and Rev. Robert F. Griffin, returned to the Immaculate Conception Church to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their ordination to the priesthood. Both attended St. Patrick's School and now held their own pastorates. They celebrated the 11:30 AM Sunday Mass with another native son, Rev. Msgr. P. J. Kenneally.

In September 1975, a reception was held for the departing pastor Father Curran. After providing this parish with guidance for eight years, he was transferred to St. Pius X Church in Manchester as pastor. On July 2, 1975, the Rev. Msgr. John E. Molan was appointed as the new pastor of Immaculate Conception. Monsignor Molan had been Diocesan Director of the New Hampshire Catholic Charities since 1963 and held other positions of responsibility in diocesan affairs.

In preparation for the new rite of the sacrament of Reconciliation, a beautifully furnished room was constructed in September, 1976, in space at the right of the sanctuary. Hard work by the Catholic Youth Organization, other parishioners, and the associate pastor Father Gauthier enabled this project to be accomplished at a cost of only \$750 in time for the Advent season. The parish is justly proud of this room for it was the first of its kind in the diocese and has served as a model for other parishes. It enables the penitent to receive the sacrament of reconciliation face-to-face if desired, or to remain anonymous.

*The next Connections will contain the final installment of Immaculate Conception history. Much of this history comes from the 1977 Alexander V. Munton history. Parishioner John O'Sullivan is conducting additional research and updating the history with publication due in Fall 2001. If you have any items, stories that may be of interest, contact John at 603-436-1622 or email him at adcetera@mediaone.net.*



Rev. J. Francis Happny



Shrine to the Virgin Mary erected in 1954, as a project by the Catholic Youth Organization (C.Y.O.)

Immaculate Conception Church  
98 Summer Street  
Portsmouth, NH 03801-4398

Here's Your

# Connections

to the Events and Goings on of  
Immaculate Conception Parish

## 150th Anniversary Parish Directory

We are very pleased to announce that after almost two years and the work of some very dedicated parishioners, our 150th Parish Directory, sponsored by the Immaculate Conception Women's Club, has gone to press. Delivery of the directory will be some time toward the end of October. Watch the bulletin for details on the distribution.

### COMING EVENTS

sponsored by

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION WOMEN'S CLUB**

#### HARVEST HAM & BEAN DINNER

**Saturday, October 13 - Lower Church**

After the 5 p.m. Mass stay for a blast from the past! Remember growing up when "hot dogs and beans" were synonymous with Saturday nights? Club members will be recreating this phenomenon with the delicious aroma of home made Boston baked beans, assorted breads, ham, and other goodies. Decide for yourself whose Boston Baked Beans are really the most like Mum's! Come one and all to this delectable feast! Tickets will be sold for a nominal price after Masses. Look for the particulars in the bulletin.

#### ANGEL FAIR - Saturday, December 1 - Lower Church

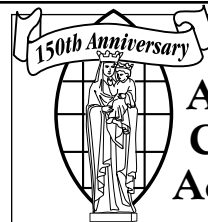
This is a revamping and updating of the former Christmas Bazaar. We have weeded out the mundane, kept and improved what was good, and included many new aspects. The raffle (tickets which you received this summer) and the "cherry tree" were both keepers along with an updated snack bar, a pared down "white elephant" with a new table to include used books, video and CD area, raffles for items during the fair, an expanded baked goods booth, wreath sales and many craft items, and finally a new aspect - the "children's corner" sponsored by the Parish Life Committee. The day will be one of surprise! Come join the fun!

#### FUTURE PLANS

On Wednesday, October 10, our Parish Nurses will present a seminar on "Advanced Care Planning" in the Parish Meeting Room (located in the Rectory cellar - access via Austin Street), beginning promptly at 7 pm. Come meet the members, enjoy refreshments while gaining valuable insight from the nurses.

Generally our meetings are held monthly at 6:30 PM on the third Wednesday in the Parish Meeting Room. Everyone is welcome to attend them and/or assist at functions and events.

Tentative plans also include: a "craft night" segment at the November meeting (11/14), a Delicious/Edible Centerpiece Sale, the Easter Bunny Breakfast, a Plant Sale, and several Pot Luck Dinners. All are fun while building Parish community and if they contribute to the financial welfare of the Parish, all the better. We need your assistance and ideas. Please join us at our meetings and/or these events.



### Anniversary Celebration Activities

~ **October 2001**

15th-18th: Parish Mission  
with Msgr. Robert Ecker

~ **Barn Dance**

27th Music, Dancing & Food!

~ **November 2001**

3rd & 4th: Stewardship Fair

~ **December 2001**

1st: Women's Club Bazaar

~ **December 2001**

8th: Anniversary Closing Mass  
with Bishop McCormack  
followed by the 150th  
Anniversary Dinner

### Newsletter Articles

We are always looking for articles from our parishioners for "Connections". Have a story about your organization or your slant on parish life? If so, contact John O'Sullivan, editor at 603-436-1622 or by email: [adcetera@mediaone.net](mailto:adcetera@mediaone.net).

### Parish Sacraments

The following Sacraments were administered in our Parish since our last publication.

#### BAPTISMS

Michael Gerald Jolly  
Brandon Steven Cook  
Nathan Michael Edwards  
Justin Fratamico  
Faith Ann Rzepa  
Lilly Sophie Rudzinski

#### MATRIMONY

Jaime E. Stewart  
& Troy M. Michaud  
Laurie A. Sippel &  
Thomas J. Murphy  
Pamela Beth Gilboard &  
Christopher Nelson Fleming  
Anne Marie Mageau &  
Jay K. Parwitt  
Bridget C. Maney &  
Christopher B. Gingrow

#### FUNERALS

Anastasia Rafferty  
Ann Degotelle  
Cecelia Kennedy Trueman  
Agnes V. Crowley  
Antonia (Ann) Vento  
Anna Frances Morrissey  
John J. Wholey  
Catherine Mary Chadwick  
Stanley Drobisewski

We ask God's perpetual light to shine upon all the souls who have departed this world.