

# **A HISTORY OF SACRED HEART COUNCIL #1847**

## **ON ITS DIAMOND JUBLIEE**

*(Written by Donato G. D'Errico in 1991 for the Diamond Jubilee of the Sacred Heart Council #1847)*

In the fall of 1915, fifty Catholic gentlemen, members of St. Mary's Parish in Franklin, petitioned the officers of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus in New Haven, Conn., that they be granted a Charter and authorize them to organize and maintain a Council of the Knights of Columbus in Franklin, Mass.

On June 18, 1916, the Charter was granted as a regularly constituted Council of the Knights of Columbus to be designated by the name of SACRED HEART COUNCIL #1847, and the signature of James A. Flaherty, Supreme Knight, affixed to the Charter under the seal of the Supreme Council.

Many of the names of the Charter members are probably familiar to some of you. If you will but take a few moments of your time to read the names of these men written on the Charter, you will find among them the names of the Codys, Costellos, Crowleys, Cataldos, Conroy, and Daniel F. Prendergast, the first Grand Knight of the Council. Also, you will see the name of Joseph Bourbeau, the first Recorder. Then there are the Feeleys, Gebbs, Supples, Keefe, Kearney, Fiorani, McGroary, Vena, William (Billy) Cataldo, and J. Harold Colgan, who was the last surviving Charter member.

The induction ceremony was held in the old Morse Opera House, where three degrees were conferred upon them all in one afternoon. Subsequent ceremonies were held in the Central Square hall, which many may remember was located on the third floor above the court room in the Morse Opera House block.

Since that time, fifty-four Grand Knights have served the Council, and of that number, twenty-four have passed on to their Eternal Reward.

In April of 1917, a good number of the original fifty members served in the armed forces of our country in France as America entered the First World War. By the Grace of God, most of them returned home safely and became very active in the various Council programs. The regular meetings were first held in rather small quarters in what is now known as the Felix Cataldo block. Later, as the membership grew, the Council rented the second and third floors above the old Post Office which was the Chilson block. These were much larger rooms, which were previously occupied by Edward L. Grant Post #75 American Legion. The original building has since been torn down and is now the Snetsky building. On the second floor were a sitting room, a card room, and a billiard room. The third floor was a large hall with kitchen facilities used for meetings, ceremonials, and social gatherings. When the Chilson building was sold, the Council was moved across the street and relocated on the third floor in what was formerly the Masonic hall and easily accessible by an elevator, installed by the new owner. The building housed the old Franklin National Bank and was later known as the Faber block, which has since been razed and replaced with the present Dean Cooperative Bank.

At one of the meetings in the early sixties, Sacred Heart Council had set up a standing Building Committee on which some of you may have served.

Our membership was steadily growing and many members felt that it was time to find a parcel of land and to proceed with building a Council home. Following an intensive search for a lot of land, the committee came upon this property [Route 140] consisting of over seven acres, and

with a great deal of man hours of volunteer labor from the members, our present Council home was finally constructed.

Since 1929, seven members of our Council, all Past Grand Knights, have been appointed to serve the State Council as District Deputies. Those appointed were Harry J. Geb and Frank D. DeLucia, both now deceased, as well as Lewis J. Cataldo, William J. Buckley, Raymond T. Weaver, Albert J. Fuller, and Francis A. Rezendes, whose term expires on June 30, 1991. Raymond T. Weaver was elected at the Mass. State Convention to represent the State Council as one of its delegates to the Supreme Convention, then held in Louisville, KY, thereby bestowing further honors upon Sacred Heart Council. Ray also served as State Pro-Life Chairman.

Nine members of our Council have served the Edward Douglass White Assembly, the Fourth section of our Order, as Faithful Navigators; they include Maurice J. Bresnahan, J. Harold Colgan, James J. Mahan, Elie L. Mucciarone, Donato G. D'Errico, Alfred A. Mucciarone, Robert F. Brown, who is presently Commander of the Color Corps, David Spear, and Francis A. Rezendes. In addition to Raymond T. Weaver's election to represent Mass. State Council to Supreme Council Convention, William J. Buckley was elected to represent the Mass. State Council at the national convention in 1974.

At the present time, we have a membership of 222 Associate, 140 Insurance, 22 Honorary, and 57 Honorary Life Members, for a total of 441 members.

Sacred Heart Council is considered to be one of the better Councils in the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, and with continued support and cooperation from all its members, the Council will continue to prosper and be better able to promote the four principles of the largest CATHOLIC-FRATERNAL-CHARITABLE organization in the world.

CHARITY-UNITY-FRATERNITY-PATRIOTISM

Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Written by:

HISTORIAN

DONATO G. D'ERRICO

*(Mr. D'Errico kindly added the following information for this 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary book.)*

We are the right arm of the Catholic Church. Fr. Michael J. McGivney was the founder of our order. In 2001, the Knights of Columbus volunteered over 58 million hours to help the needy and better our communities. We raised over \$125,000,000 for charities and local churches. The Fourth Degree of our order is called upon on many occasions to escort the priests and bishops to many Catholic services in full regalia to bring honor to our clergy.

