

# THE FEAST OF ST. ROCCO

## 1979-PRESENT

*(Written by Vincent DeBaggis in 2003)*

The Feast of St. Rocco was the brainchild of Father R. Michael Guarino. The first was held from August 16 to August 19, 1979, and was cast as a religious, social, and cultural event. It had the blessing of our pastor, Father Fairbanks, and his assistants, Father Chambers, Father Guarino, and Father Linehan. The field events were held Saturday and Sunday. The healing service was held on Friday evening. The opening Mass was held on Thursday evening, and the closing Mass was held on Sunday morning. A large procession followed the Mass from the church, around the common to the school field. I recall that first weekend was rainy, yet people came to enjoy the festivities.

Over the years, the feast has evolved into a four-day event from Thursday evening to Sunday evening. For the first couple of years, most of the food was donated by various businesses and individuals. The number of different foods has expanded to the large variety we now offer. The beer and wine booth was eliminated about 10 or 12 years ago. The feast became more the family event that we now enjoy.

The entertainment has also changed over the years so that we now have a wider range of bands and individual acts such as clowns, magic shows, a live reptile show, and a large midway for the children, teenagers, and young adults. This year (2003) is our 25<sup>th</sup> year and we are planning a special show to mark the anniversary.

It is very satisfying to see the many individuals who help out at the various food booths. It is even more satisfying to see the many happy faces of the people who are enjoying themselves during the event.



**Co-chairs of the Feast of St. Rocco (2003)**

# THE FEAST OF ST. ROCCO THROUGH THE YEARS

