



November 23, 2008 - Cardinal Celebrates Closing Liturgy For Bicentennial Year

Braintree, MA, November 23, 2008 - The Archdiocese of Boston celebrated the Closing Mass of the Bicentennial Year this afternoon at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston.

Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley was joined by Cardinal Justin Rigali of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, more than 20 Bishops from around New England and the country, hundreds of clergy, religious and deacons and parishioners from across the Archdiocese of Boston at today's closing liturgy.

The Closing Mass reflected the cultural diversity of our Archdiocese, including ethnic choirs and groups represented from the local Church.

Cardinal Seán also bestowed the inaugural Archbishop Cheverus Award to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding Christian leadership and service at parishes, agencies, and schools in the Archdiocese. A complete list of the recipients follows this news release.

Cardinal Seán said, "We have been blessed as a Church during this Bicentennial Year. Our people, clergy, religious, deacons, parishes, schools, and ministries have all joined together in the presence of our Lord to celebrate our faith as one Catholic community. From every corner of our Archdiocese, we have prayed and worshiped together reflecting on our rich history and with great joy for the future of our local Church."

Cardinal Rigali offered, "I am pleased to join with Cardinal O'Malley and the people of the Archdiocese of Boston for this important and prayerful moment in their history. As brothers and sisters in Christ, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia join with the Catholic community of Boston in celebration of our Bicentennials recognizing God's sustaining presence in our parishes, schools, and social service ministries. We pray that God continues to bless the Archdiocese of Boston with His loving grace."

Rev. Robert L. Connors, Director of the Bicentennial Planning Committee and pastor of Saint Marguerite d'Youville Parish and Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Dracut said, "We have witnessed a great expression of our Catholic faith during the past year. As we go forward as an Archdiocese we can look back with great joy at what we have accomplished and what blessings are in front of us, reminded of course that we continue to Journey Together in Christ."

The Celebration

The liturgy included bishops from New England and around the country, including past Auxiliaries. It began with a procession of flags representing the people from 34 countries to which the Archdiocese serves in their native language each week. Then Cardinal Seán blessed a plaque commemorating the Archdiocese of Boston's 200th Anniversary during the liturgy. It will be installed in the Cathedral as a perpetual memento of this historic occasion.

Choirs from across the Archdiocese participated in the celebration all coordinated by Leo Abbott, Organist and Choir Director for the Cathedral. They included the Cathedral Festival Choir, Cathedral Hispanic Choir, Archdiocese of Boston Black Catholic Choir, and choirs of the Ugandan, Chinese and Syro-Malabar Catholic Communities. Intercessions were read in eight languages, and instrumentalists included, brass, organ, guitars, and drums. The "Bicentennial Hymn" by Rev. Francis Patrick O'Brien was sung at the Preparation Rite.

Highlights from the Bicentennial Year Celebration

In addition to the opening and closing liturgies, the other major events that were held during the year-long celebration included:

- A Retreat for the Parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston Celebrating the Bicentennial of the Church of Boston at the Beginning of Advent 2007 prepared by the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life.



- Proud 2B Catholic Music Festival in August 2008
- Regional Days to Celebrate the Catholic Family of Boston
- Advent Week of Prayer in 2007
- Eight College and University symposiums and talks were held, with each one centering a program on the bicentennial of the Archdiocese in an academic framework.
- In collaboration with the Boston Public Library, a three-month exhibit this past summer (2008) was on display offering an overall view of the many ways in which the Archdiocese and the Catholic community of Boston has impacted the culture and society. Two public lectures were presented in conjunction with the Boston Public Library 6th Annual Local and Family History Lecture Series: (1) Thomas O'Connor "Pastoral Profiles: Bishops of Boston" and (2) Robert Johnson Lally "Researching church records for family history."

The Centerpiece of the Bicentennial Celebration: *ARISE: Together in Christ*

The centerpiece of the yearlong celebration has been the launch of the 3-year program *ARISE: Together in Christ*, a comprehensive process of spiritual renewal from RENEW International. The effort is being led by Mrs. Mary Ann McLaughlin, Co-Director of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life and Auxiliary Bishop John A. Dooher with the able assistance of Mrs. Ann Cussen, Operations Associate for *ARISE: Together in Christ*.

Mrs. McLaughlin said, "Cardinal Seán has called on the faithful of the Archdiocese of Boston to participate in this three year process of spiritual renewal and evangelization in order to deepen their faith, develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow in community and reach out in service to others. We are seeing that happen and are blessed to be at such a wonderful and exciting threshold as an Archdiocese as we prepare for Season Two of *ARISE*."

Highlights of *ARISE* to date:

- More than half the parishes in the Archdiocese, approximately 160 parishes, are participating in *ARISE*.
- There are about 30,000 people who have joined *ARISE* groups with 3,000 leaders that have been trained.
- *ARISE* is presently working with 7 languages, English, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Lithuanian, Spanish, Vietnamese and American Sign Language.
- Because of requests from parishes who want to participate in *ARISE* this Lent, Sister Honora Nolty OP from RENEW International will be doing two more trainings on December 6, 2008. One at St John's Parish in Swampscott, the other at St John's Parish in Quincy. It is not too late to sign on for *ARISE Together in Christ*.
- In Lent *ARISE* will move to Season Two, Change our Hearts.

We will begin a second round of training in January 2009 with fifteen workshops scheduled to be held in all the regions in the Archdiocese, and given in Portuguese, Spanish and English. More information is available on the program by visiting www.rcab.org and clicking on the *ARISE* link.

Bicentennial Prayer

All loving and gracious God
We thank you for the Gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.
For two hundred years We have journeyed together
As members of his Church In the Archdiocese of Boston.
We have tried to live the
Gospel message in service to one another.
Continue to walk with us as we seek to be receptive to your grace in Word and Sacrament.
Send us your Spirit to enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills and open our hearts.
By our witness may others know you.
Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, may the Church in Boston
Journey together in Christ with courage, joy and peace. Amen.



The Archdiocese of Boston:

The Diocese of Boston was founded on April 8, 1808 and was elevated to Archdiocese in 1875. Currently serving the needs of approximately 2 million Catholics, the Archdiocese of Boston is an ethnically diverse and spiritually enriching faith community consisting of 292 parishes, across 144 communities, educating approximately 46,000 students in its Catholic schools and 156,000 in religious education classes each year, ministering to the needs of more than one million patients annually in Catholic hospitals and 200,000 individuals through its social service outreach. Mass is celebrated in nearly twenty different languages each week. For more information, please visit www.rcab.org.

Cheverus Award recipients

Grace Alexander, Newton
Deacon Alfred Balestracci, North Reading
Annmarie Bannister, Littleton
John Barros, Roxbury
Francine Bell, Abington
William Caines, Medford
Edmond Cantin, Lynn
Nancy Carapezza, Wayland
Mary Carney, Danvers
Meyer Chambers, West Roxbury
John Corcoran, Lynn
Brother James Curran, Boston
Robert Curran, Wakefield
Jean Marie Daniels, Mattapan
Robert DeCoste, Dover
Mrs. Mary DeCoste, Dover
Linda DeCristoforo, Revere
Sister Germaine Demers, PM, Methuen
Rose Dittmer, Melrose
Elizabeth Donnelly, Danvers
Alma Driscoll, Weymouth
Richard Erikson, Peabody
Mary Farrell, Peabody
Edward Fee, Saugus
Anna-Marie Ferraro, Arlington
Sister Zita Fleming, CSJ, Boston
Harry Foden, Winchester
David Francis, Plymouth
Orlando J. Germano, Jr., Boston
Stephen Gervais, Lowell
Mrs. Maureen Gervais, Lowell
John Hurley, South Boston
Dulceneia Junqueira, Brighton
Joseph Kosciuszek, Georgetown
Daniel Kurema, Raynham
Aldona Lingertat, Milton
Sister Pauline Leblanc, SCO, Lowell
Thomas Ledbetter, Roslindale
Deacon Barry Lloyd, Lowell
Sister Ricci Lloyd, CSJ, Framingham
John Manuel, Hyde Park

Ray Martin, Beverly
Richard Matulis, Roslindale
Mary V. McCabe, Medford
Frances McDonnell, Wellesley
Mary McHale, Boston
Evangelina Monge, East Boston
Sharon Moore, Wrentham
John Nichols, Danvers
Altie Nichols, Danvers
Hoa Nguyen, Charlestown
Chief Michael Okafor, Hyde Park
Soo Gyun Park, Westwood
Linda Perrino, Peabody
Thong Phamduy, Lowell
Mrs. Dietu Phamduy, Lowell
Dr. Robert Querze, Plymouth
Brother Rene Roy FMS, Lawrence
Deacon John D. Salenius, Quincy
Edward J. Sampson, North Andover
Armand Soucy, Beverly
Elizabeth Sterling, Lynn
Theodore Szymanski, Woburn
Dorothy Talbot, Danvers
Steve Tam Ph.D., Wellesley
Sister Teresa Vesey, CSJ, Weymouth
William White, Lynn
Kathleen Woodward, Walpole