

St. Mary's School, Melrose celebrates 100 years!



Although the official Church calendar lists Pentecost for May 23 this year, God's Holy Spirit was already very much in evidence on May 2 at St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Melrose, when parishioners and friends gathered to celebrate the Eucharist in thanksgiving for the one hundredth anniversary of St. Mary's School. The recent water

ban and a temporary power outage just before Mass did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the nearly four hundred enthusiastic St. Mary's students, their parents, relatives, teachers, friends and Melrose mayors to join with his Eminence, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Pastor Father John Sullivan, parish priests and principal Mrs. Cynthia Boyle to thank our gracious God for a century of abundant blessings.

St. Mary's School was founded in 1909 when the parish's first pastor, Father Francis Glynn, invited the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus to travel from Pennsylvania to Melrose in order to fulfill the American bishops' directive for each parish to open a parochial school for its children. Reverend Mother Mary Marcella, SHCJ, became the school's first principal, and accompanied six Holy Child Sisters to St. Mary's to open school for 252 boys and girls in grades one to six. Two additional Sisters joined them in January to serve the needs of the already flourishing school.



Over the past century, hundreds of Holy Child Sisters, lay women and men have cared for St. Mary's children with expertise, enthusiasm, wisdom, faith and love. Students from pre-Kindergarten through grade eight today carry on the spirit of excellence first modeled by the Sisters and alive today in Mrs. Boyle's current staff. Students in every grade played significant roles in the liturgy, as well as in a half-hour program of entertainment at Melrose's Memorial Hall that culminated in a spirited chorus of "God Bless America."

A visual high point of the May 2 Centennial festivities was a gathering of the school family outside the Church after Mass, with Cardinal Sean, Father John and Mrs. Boyle, previous to a lively five-block procession to Main Street and Memorial Hall, accompanied by pipers, banners, balloons and other evidence of the joy and gratitude experienced by a blessed community.



With the teachings and example of Jesus of Nazareth, first clarified by the Sisters who founded the school, students at St. Mary's School are putting into practice the Holy Child motto of "Actions Not Words" as they prepare themselves to become intelligent, creative, caring and faithful members of a world community that is in desperate need of their gifts.

The next event in the St. Mary's School Centennial celebration will be a gala banquet to be held at Boston's Westin Copley Plaza Hotel on June 5, for which tickets are still available.