

**Court St. Francis of Assisi # 1859
Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Braintree, Massachusetts**



UNITY & CHARITY

Catholic Daughters strive to embrace the principal of faith through love in the promotion of justice, equality, the advancement of human rights and dignity for all

Chaplain's Message


J.M.J.

January 2004

1789 – 1792 An imaginary Irish youth writes home

Hi folks, more news about the Catholic Church in Boston. We shall have a new church building soon. Our only church in Boston was a rather run down building which we leased. I think that I told you about Father Matignon spending over a hundred dollars to clear and refurbish it. Our lease is up and the owners won't renew it. It really is a blessing in disguise as it is. Thank God, now too small. So, even as we struggle to exist, Father Matignon and Cheveres are seeking to build a new and larger church.

God bless President John Adams. He gave the huge sum of one hundred dollars, one gift, which impressed me. And our priests also, came from four young altar boys; it was for a dollar and fifty cents!

Some of the wealthy business people of Boston have welcomed Catholic refugees from Ireland and elsewhere. It was a pragmatic rather than a kind action; the reason being to obtain workers who would work for very low pay. Now such people have become bitter and hateful toward Catholics. It really bothers them to see ground broken for our Church. They are beginning to see us as a threat.

God bless our Irish and other laborers; they have given the little free time which they have to dig in preparation for a foundation. Our two great friends in Damariscotta, Maine, of whom I shall write later, Matthew Gottrill and James Kavanagh gave five hundred dollars for the land and the same amount for the building. Somehow small bills, and even coins, add up when given by many.

Our new Church will be beautiful. Poor as we are and hard as it is to get enough money to build, everything will be first class, the peoples' sacrifice has been too precious to waste on a tawdry building. The architect is Boston's finest, Charles Bullfinch. Bishop John Carroll will dedicate it soon. The general opinion is that even though it is not the largest church in Boston, it is by far the most beautiful.

I waited until our new church of the Holy Cross was dedicated so I could give you a picture. Bishop John Carroll came from Baltimore, and we had two other priests besides our own two. There were two reactions: people with an open mind greeted Bishop Carroll with kindness and were delighted with his coming, his courtesy and knowledge. Another group saw him as a papal threat.

If rumors are true I shall be able to send you some good news.

With love,

Michael

