60th Anniversary
of the Dedication of
Our Lady of the Lake Church
1400 Main Street
Leominster, Massachusetts

Historical Vignettes & Memories
1954 - 2014
Dedication

When Our Lady of the Lake Parish was established, every Sunday after Mass, the congregation offered a prayer for the safety of all persons, regardless of faith, who “use our lake.”

In keeping with this tradition, the following prayer was written specially for this 60th Anniversary Year by Elaine Hackett in dedication to all the parishioners from the early years to the present.

*Loving Father, God of all nations and people,*
we stand before you with much gratitude
*for the many blessings you have bestowed upon*
Our Lady of the Lake Parish Family over the past 60 years.
*We thank you for the men, women, and children*
who sacrificed and struggled
to establish our parish and to build our Church.
*We ask your blessing on the clergy, religious, and laity*
who have ministered here
*and for those who continue to minister*
at Our Lady of the Lake.
*As members of this parish,*
help us to welcome all who come through our doors
*and continue to reach out to those in need*
with compassion and love.
*Through the intercession of Mary, our Patroness,*
we ask you to bless us in many ways throughout this Jubilee year.
*Amen.*
INTRODUCTION

This Anniversary celebration was opened on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 2013. The culmination of this blessed year will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 AM on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2014, celebrated by our Pastor, Fr. Dennis J. O’Brien, with former associate pastor, Bishop George E. Rueger, serving as homilist. This will be followed by a family picnic on the church grounds.

Family picnics at one time were an annual event. The first of these picnics was held in August 1952 on the Whalom picnic grounds.

![Whalom Picnic Grove in earliest years](image)

One Spirit, One Church has been the theme of this 60th anniversary celebration of the dedication of Our Lady of the Lake Church. The Parish was established on July 2, 1952, and the Church was dedicated on June 12, 1954.

Using our theme, novena celebrations were held each month beginning on the evening of October 7, 2013, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Eucharist was celebrated by former pastor Fr. James Hoey, who spoke on “We are a Pilgrim People.” On November 13th former associate pastor Fr. Edward Niccolls delivered the homily, “We are the Church of God.”

On December 11th, former pastor Fr. Timothy Brewer affirmed that we are “A Family of Believers,” and on January 8, 2014 former associate pastor
Fr. James Houston encouraged us to always remember that we are “Disciples of the Lord.”

On February 12th and March 12th respectively, native son, Fr. Michael Clements spoke on the theme we are “United in One Spirit,” and former pastor Msgr. James Mongelluzzo affirmed that we are “Ignited by the Fire” of the Holy Spirit on the day of our baptism.

Bishop Robert McManus celebrated the liturgy on April 9th and asserted in his homily that the faith of the Church is “Still Burning through the Ages.” He noted in his homily that it was on Palm Sunday, April 11, 1954, that the first Mass was celebrated in the new, not quite finished, church. On May 14th, Fr. Tomasz Borkowski reaffirmed that the “Spirit is Still Present in Our Lives.”
THE PEOPLE ARE THE CHURCH

On July 2, 1952, the official announcement of the new parish was made by Most Reverend John J. Wright, first Bishop of the Worcester Diocese. This parish perhaps had the youngest congregation of all churches in the area being made up of newly married and young couples who built houses in the fast growing section of North Leominster and the Whalom District as well as the summer colony along the lake. By 1962 many of the latter had become year-round homes.

There were 230 families in 1952 and a parish census in 1975 accounted for 950 families. Today there are 1750 families registered in the parish.

Nearby Craven Drive is named for the first pastor, Fr. Francis J. Craven, who resided at first in the new St. Boniface rectory. However, by October he had moved to a private home at 1461 Main Street where he said daily Mass in the “chapel” dining room. At first two Masses were said each Sunday either at the theater or ballroom or sometimes in the skating rink at Whalom Park, but later two more Masses were added. Father Craven was assisted by Fr. Raymond Isabelle, a LaSalle from Enfield, New Hampshire, as they offered Masses at 7, 8:30, 10, and 11:30. Fr. Robert I. Killion joined the parish as the first curate in 1953. Many of the current day’s parishioners who were youngsters at that time recall fondly this handsome, kind, young priest.

On March 15, 1953, with great ceremony and the pastor and bishop in a front end loader, ground was broken for the mission style church and rectory at 1400 Main Street. By February 1954 the two priests were living in the new rectory.

Almost immediately after the formation of the parish, the high school confraternity and the altar boy instruction classes were begun. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur from the Julie Country Day School in Leominster were teaching our youngsters their hymns and catechism.

“My husband Allan’s family [Mrs. And Mrs. Earle Whitney] was one of the first families of the parish. Allan’s brother, Bob, served as an altar boy at
the first Mass said in the ballroom and Allan served Mass there until he joined the Air Force in 1959. Our son Brian served as an altar boy for many years as well as our grandson, Alex Babineau.” ~ Carolyn Whitney

“[My brother] Phil [Holden, son of Nellie Holden] was one of the first altar boys ... and served at the ballroom, the theatre, and skating rink.... He remembers his first meeting with Father Craven when Father showed up at the ball field and introduced himself.” ~ Eleanor Holden Gilmartin

**PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE MINISTRIES**

The Our Lady of the Lake Guild, later known as the Ladies Guild, formed by the women of the parish, held their first meeting in October 1952. From the beginning their purpose was to raise funds with card parties, fashion shows, dances, suppers, and much more for the benefit of the parish. Thanks to the members of the Guild, furniture and accessories, estimated to be worth over twenty thousand dollars, were donated to furnish the rectory. The early annual reports of the Guild are a valuable record of the history of the Parish. One interesting note is that the guest speaker at the first Guild meeting held in the parish hall on February 3, 1953, was Sen. Elizabeth Stanton. According to these annual reports and Connie Ayles, the Guild’s indoor Country Fair in 1975 was so successful that it became the precursor for the annual Bazaar, begun October 16, 1976 as an indoor/outdoor fair when the men became involved. According to Lucille Robillard, “Equipment was purchased and arrangements were made by Norman Gagne” for the first bazaar and “Dan Robillard set up the electrical wiring for the PA system.” From humble beginnings, the bazaar at Our Lady of the Lake is one of the most popular church fairs in the region.
From Aimee Perkins: “Among the active members of Our Lady of the Lake in the earliest years was Bella Harding. She and Beatrice Courtease – another old timer – came to my house to invite me to join the Ladies Guild in 1955. At one time the guild flourished, then went into a period of decline ... Much credit goes to Lucia Ross, another founding member, whose dedication and effort breathed life into it again. It has survived to this day.” At one time, during the time Fr. Roy Devaney was pastor and then Fr. George Rueger was associate, Lucia said to friends, “How did we get so lucky!”

The men of the parish formed a Men’s Club in 1953 which included veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict. These men lent hard labor and time in constructing and finishing the church. For one thing, the raspberry colored pews, donated by Sacred Heart parish of Holyoke, needed refinishing and that was estimated to be worth several thousands of dollars in donated time, talent and labor.

According to Sam Costa, the men’s group was very active during the early years while Father Craven was pastor. “It was the largest men’s group in the Fitchburg and Leominster area at that time. They held boxing matches and invited sports figures to speak at their meetings in the church hall,” he added. They also joined forces with the Ladies Guild for meetings, dances and other celebrations.
These two groups were instrumental in providing activities for the young people of the parish. The Ladies Guild sponsored annual Christmas parties for the parish children as well as a girls’ softball team and the men coached a boys’ softball team and sponsored a Little League team. Fr. John Marshall brought Scouting to the parish for boys and girls after his arrival in 1954.

In 1974 the parish CYC basketball team won a District title, and in February 1976, the CYC girls’ cheerleader team competed in Worcester with other CYC groups.

A CYC Youth Mime group was formed in the 1980s and performed an annual presentation of the Passion of Our Lord. They also performed in mime the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes, for an ecumenical Thanksgiving program.

The Guild and the CCD Program are the oldest of the nearly fifty Ministries here at Our Lady of the Lake. The latter, one of the largest, reaffirms the commitment made at Baptism, passing on the gift of faith through the Religious Education Program. The goal of this ministry is to “proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, build a community of believers of all ages, form lives rooted in prayer and worship and foster a spirit of love and service to the Lord and one another.”

This program was begun in 1952 with the Sisters of Notre Dame and specially trained laity. Father Craven’s dream was to build an elementary and high school, which he hoped would be staffed by these sisters. But this dream never came to fruition. Father Shannon appointed Loretta Di Pietro as the first Director of Religious Education. Carol Girouard and Charlene Dahlin followed. Lucia Ross and Margaret Syrjanen, among many more, assisted with the teaching.
Sister Rosemary Fay, S.N.D. became Director in 1988 until Lisa Sciacca, our current Religious Education Director, was appointed in 1999, assisted at first by Kerry O’Grady until 2010. She is currently assisted by the grade-level coordinators, Elizabeth Rawlinson and Michelle Lutter, and secretary, Debbie Bronchuk. It is one of the largest and, most well organized, and respected CCD programs in the area.

Another integral part of the parish is the Music Ministry. Beginning from the time that Mrs. Henry Osowski and Mrs. Richard Dresser were organists in the Whalom ballroom until today, music continues to be one of the most important parts of parish liturgies and programs. In the choir loft, built to accommodate 50 choristers, Mrs. Dresser directed the original children’s choir and Miss Mary Moran led the adult or senior choir.

Margaret (Honey) Holden, who belonged to the youth choir, recalls a Christmas when they sang with the youth choir at All Saints [Episcopal] Chapel in Whalom. “At that time Catholics were forbidden to sing the so-called ‘Protestant’ Christmas hymn, *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*. As the hymn began, the Lady of the Lake choir remained silent. Father Craven stopped the singing and instructed his choir to be courteous guests and sing along with the others. He also led them in praying the Our Father, including the ending, which at that time was not recited by Catholics.” She adds, “In retrospect Father Craven was way ahead of his time.”

According to Lucille Robillard, in 1979 “May Laventure expressed a desire to form a choir and became choir director.”

Our current director of music, Reggie Pineda, joined us in 2007; he is assisted by his wife Olga. They direct the children’s Choir of Angels, Cantors and Adult Choir.
The Teen Music Ministry and Adult Folk Group (established 1974) are led by Melissa Mobley and Jim Howland, respectively. Two additional people who add to this ministry are Chris Callahan and Charlie Sullivan.

The church resounds with their beautiful music throughout the year.

Other youth oriented parish ministries are the Children’s Liturgy of the Word, when children are gathered during the Sunday 9:45 a.m. liturgy, College Outreach Ministry (established as a ministry in 1999), Junior High Youth Group (2011) and the High School Youth Group.

Welcoming people into the Catholic faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) became a formal ministry in 1990, and is organized by Joan Burns, our Pastoral Minister. She was preceded by Elaine Hackett from 2005 to 2008 and Sister Paulette Gariepy, D.H.S. from 1999 to 2005.
Parishioners reach out to others in many ways such as through the Prayer Shawl Ministry (2007), Assisted Living/Nursing Home outreach (1994), Compassionate Companions who minister to grieving parishioners (2005), Mary, Mother of Prisoners Ministry (April 2004), the Food Pantry (2000), Discovering Our Faith (2011), the Funeral Ministry (1990), Miracle Meals (2013), and the Handicap Equipment Lending Program (H.E.L.P.) taken over in 2006 by Emery and Jeannita Gaudet.

“Back in the early seventies, I, Aimee Perkins, noticed Lucia Ross ... cleaning the sanctuary. I asked if she needed any help. Then and there this [altar preparation] ministry was born.” Since 2011, David LaLiberty has gathered parishioners for lively discussions to deepen their faith. More recently, Bob Heffernan saw a need for welcoming newcomers, especially at the church entrances before each Mass, and the Greeters Ministry began. This is the spirit of Our Lady of the Lake.

Once a need develops, someone creates a way to fill that need. Another good example is the way parishioners have always pitched in to help keep the church, the hall, and the family center clean, and the grounds well maintained. From cleaning the bathrooms to thatching the lawn, the Working Hands Ministry employs the adage that many hands make light work thereby helping our facility manager, Frank Ricardo, with all the maintenance and cleaning tasks. And this is only a sample of the ministries our parishioners have established.
THE EXTERNAL CHURCH

Just as the strength of the parish community has remained stable through changes within and outside the parish and the world, so too has the Franciscan Mission style “chapel” remained firm through several modifications of the interior and exterior.

Our Lady of the Lake was called the church of all nations because parishioners represented many ethnic groups compared to the earlier churches in the Fitchburg-Leominster area which were built by and served specific ethnic groups. Therefore, it was important that the interior represent the many parishes from which the new parishioners came. Statues representing all of them lined the Sanctuary. St. Joseph was located on the left altar and the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the right altar. Above the paneling on each side of the main altar were statues representing St. Leo, St. Anna, St. Cecilia, St. Boniface, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Camillus de Lellis, St. Bernard, and St. Anthony de Padua. The statue of Mary holding a rosary was in the center above the altar, representing Our Lady of the Lake, Immaculate Conception and Madonna of the Holy Rosary.

The Shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes in the form of a grotto outside the church was constructed by parishioner, Lewis Esposito, Sr. His granddaughter, Rose Lastella Stiles of North Carolina, offered this memory: “My grandfather, Lewis Esposito, Sr. designed, built and donated the lovely stone grotto behind the church 60 years ago. I noticed on your website you are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the church and this would fit right in with your ceremonies.” Rose sent copies of photographs taken during the construction and dedication of the shrine in 1954. On August 15, 1962, Fr. John Shannon held the first outdoor evening Mass there, for the feast of the Assumption and on Sunday May 11, 2014, after a procession to the shrine to honor Mary, Father Dennis offered a special prayer for Mr. Esposito.
There was also a statue of a reclining Christ not too far from the shrine. It is no longer there but a few current parishioners recall seeing it when they were children, and remember the statue as an imposing one.

RENOVATIONS AND CHANGES

The church was designed by Dirsa and Lampron and built by the Caron Construction Company, both from Manchester, New Hampshire. They utilized materials such as brick veneer over cinder block and tooled aluminum for beauty and longevity.

The first renovations, in December 1962 under Pastor, Fr. John Shannon, consisted of replacing the wood entrance doors with glass doors and the raspberry-colored pews with ones with light wood finish. By October 1963 the renovations were completed with the addition of a new main altar, paneling to match the pews, carpeting, and replacement of the Stations of the Cross. Draperies hung on either side of the large cross behind and above the altar. All statues were removed, except the statue of Mary, which was moved to the left side wall, and the one of St. Joseph which was placed to the right. A baptismal font was brought into the sanctuary. Aimee Perkins recalls that during the fifties, her children were baptized over the sacrarium in the sacristy, “before we had a baptismal font.” (Pre-Vatican II)

In November 1976 all walls and paneling were painted blue, there was a new design and new cross behind the altar and a green rug replaced the old one.
In August of 1982 a garage storage unit was added to the back of the church for the purpose of storing Bazaar equipment. From the beginning it was the intent to replace the simple glass windows with stained glass. Prior to the installation of the new windows, Fr. Roy Devaney, pastor at that time, had no difficulty finding donors to purchase them as a memorial to their families. They ranged in price from $400 to $2200. In a letter to Father Devaney dated April 18, 1984, Gerard E. Hiemer, of Hiemer and Company in Clifton, New Jersey, installers of the windows wrote: “Our craftsmen reported that the Stained Glass has done much to enhance the appearance of your church. I want to inspect and photograph the new windows the next time I’m in the area.”

The glass doors at the entrances were replaced once again in 1986 and major renovations to the church interior were made in 1994 in celebration of the fortieth anniversary, while Fr. James Hoey was pastor. The blue walls were repainted the color as it is today, and the painted paneling was restored with an oak stain; the carpeting and tiles were changed. The area behind the statue of Mary and the tabernacle were redecorated and the pews were refinished to match the oak paneling. When the confessional in the back of the church was removed, a stained glass window was revealed. It had been donated by the Ladies Guild. The statue of St. Joseph is now located in this alcove.

Finally, in 2004, for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of our church, the long awaited Parish Family Center was dedicated and blessed by Auxiliary Bishop George E. Rueger and pastor, Fr. Timothy M. Brewer.
Father Tim wrote: “This wonderful facility is the result of the hard work, dedication and generosity of many within our parish community.”

In October of 2013 our pastor, Fr. Dennis J. O’Brien informed the people of the parish that a new boiler would be needed. In the true spirit of this parish, by December, fifty thousand dollars was raised, the cost for this major project. There were a few winter days when coats, and even mittens and hats, were worn during the liturgies, but eventually the new boiler was replaced and running as it should. Father Dennis jokes that this will be his legacy, but the past two years have proven that this will not be the case. It will be breakfast on the feasts of Saints Joachim and Anne and St. Joseph. It will be his scrambled eggs and Trappist jams! It will be the naming of the church hall, St. Joseph Hall. According to one member, “It will be the smiles on the faces of the parishioners.” “It will be his inspiring homilies,” added another.

And these are just the beginning.

THE SACRAMENTS

From Baptism through Holy Orders, this church has been blessed with hundreds of celebrations over the years. Early Baptisms were held in the sacristy and later inside the sanctuary. Some were even held at home. “May of 1974 both my [children – Grant and Gisele] were baptized here at home at the same time. Fr. Houston was the priest who presided” ~ Gerene Sanguinet.
First Communion has also been celebrated in the church and at home. Confirmation was an annual event until 2013 with parish youth from surrounding high schools being confirmed at Our Lady of the Lake. Now Confirmation is held on a rotating basis at various parishes.

The first parishioner ordained a priest was Fr. Wayne Benton in May 1961. Other parishioners ordained as priests are Fr. Louis R. Piermarini (1969), Fr. Steven Lagace (1979), and Fr. Michael J. Clements (2012). Another parishioner, Ronald Aubuchon, was ordained Permanent Deacon June 6, 1981.
FURTHER REMINISCENCES

Several members of the parish answered the call for anecdotes regarding their experiences at Our Lady of the Lake. Some have been included within this booklet. Excerpts from others of these reminiscences are shared below.

Joyce Leger shared a cookbook which was published by the Ladies Guild in about 1955, “which includes photos of ... Fr. Craven & Fr. Killion, a list of Ladies Guild members, and ads from local vendors.” She shared that her favorite recipes are for peanut butter cookies and banana bread and said she cherishes it because “my father was very involved in the early years of the church.” The advertisements in this cookbook are almost as interesting to read as the recipes.

Joyce’s book is one of three known to have been published by the Guild, according to Aimee Perkins. In 1985 “Cherished Recipes” was published and dedicated to Lucia Ross. If you were ever curious about how the pastry table evolved at the annual bazaar, you will be happy to know that Lucia Ross was the early chairman of this table and “is the woman behind all those delicious homemade apple and blueberry pies that we look forward to every year.”  ~ From the cookbook. The Cookbook Committee was Mrs. Annemarie Amlong, Mrs. Connie Ayles, and Mrs. Phyllis Boudreau.

Another cookbook, “Our Families Favorites,” was published in 2005 as a means of raising funds to defray the cost of the Parish Family Center. Tony Menendez-Aponte and Dee and Bert Uschold, Parish Associates, coordinated the project.

“We joined Our Lady of the Lake Parish in 1972. Our children, Robert, Lisa, and Steven received the Sacraments, were active in CCD, CYC, Scouting and the Bazaar. As a family we fully participated in our parish and grew with it. We have very fond memories ... and now have the added blessing of seeing our grandchildren, Jillian, Caroline and Nathaniel Ayles participate in all the ministries of this wonderful parish.”  ~ Fred and Connie Ayles
“Several people invited me to join OLL when I moved to Leominster in 2000. Not only that, but within weeks, I was given a tithe to support the Pastoral Ministry Program at HealthAlliance. Never have I found a parish so welcoming, so giving, so active in ministry, and so nurturing for the soul. It is a joy to be part of this parish, and a tremendous gift to be able to recommend others to come and experience our faith community. OLL is truly my spiritual home, and I am so very grateful.” ~ Cathy Pimley

Gerene Sanguinet also shared that at one time the overflow of people attending the Christmas Eve Mass sat in the church hall. “They had microphones for us to hear what was happening upstairs. We went upstairs to receive the Eucharist.” Someone else noted that Christmas Day Masses were said in both the church and the church hall.

And by no means the least of these, “God has blessed our parish with so many good priests – the latest our dear Fr. Dennis O’Brien.” ~ Aimee Perkins

“We have had so many wonderful pastors and associates as well as visiting priests over the years and I truly feel that if you took all the great attributes of them all and rolled them up into one person, that person would be Father Dennis O’Brien. “ ~ Carolyn Whitney

There is no real ending or conclusion to this historical vignette as we continue our journey into the next decade and celebrate the history of the church at Our Lady of the Lake. The parishioners, combined with our pastor and deacon and all the staff make it one of the most thriving, dynamic, welcoming, and blessed parishes.

In Lucia Ross’ words, “How did we get so lucky?”
Some Important Dates

July 2, 1952 - Parish established by Most Reverend John J. Wright, first Bishop of Worcester

1952-1962 - Fr. Francis J. Craven – First Pastor

August 1952 - First parish picnic at Whalom Grove

October 1952 - Ladies Guild formed

1953 - Men’s Club formed

1953-1954 - Fr. Robert. L. Killion, Associate

March 15, 1953 - Groundbreaking for the church

February 1954 - Fathers Craven and Killion moved into the rectory

February 22, 1954 - First Mass celebrated in the church hall

April 11, 1954 - (Palm Sunday) First Mass celebrated in church, which was not fully completed

April 1954 - Ship’s bell electrified and placed in the belfry

June 12, 1954 - Bishop John J. Wright dedicated the church

1954 - Shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto built/ Dedicated by Bishop Wright

1954-1956 - Fr. John Marshall, Associate
1956-1958 - Fr. Leo O’Neil, Associate
1958-1960 - Fr. John F. Burke, Associate
1958-1961 - Fr. Leo Battista, in residence
1960-1961 - Fr. Walter Coonan, Associate
1961-1966 - Fr. William McGovern, Associate
April 4, 1962 - Death of first pastor, Father Craven
1962-1975 - Fr. John Shannon, Pastor
August 15, 1962 - First outdoor evening Mass at the Shrine
1962 – 1963 - First major renovations
1966-1970 - Fr. Paul Foley, Associate
1970-1971 - Fr. John Connell, Associate
1971-1972 - Fr. Myles Quail, Associate
1972-1973 - Fr. Robert Gauthier, Associate
1973-1974 - Fr. James Houston, Associate
1974-1977 - Fr. George E. Rueger, Associate (Auxiliary Bishop of Worcester)
1975-1984 - Fr. Roy Devaney, Pastor
November 1976 - Second major renovations
1977-1980 - Fr. Gerard Walsh, Associate
1980-1984 - Fr. Robert Spellman, Associate
March 1984 - Stained Glass windows installed
1984-1988 - Fr. Daniel Driscoll, Pastor
1984-1988 - Fr. Edward Niccolls, Associate
1988-1996 - Fr. James Hoey, Pastor
1988-1991 - Fr. Lawrence Ianneti, Associate
1991- 2008 - Fr. Robert Gariepy, Retired
1992-2012 - Deacon Fred Harkins, Retired
1994 - Third major renovations
1996-1997 - Msgr. James Mongelluzzo, Pastor
1997-2012 - Fr. Timothy Brewer, Pastor
October 20, 2002 - Groundbreaking for Parish Family Center
June 2004 - Parish Family Center dedicated
2012 - Deacon Timothy Cross
2012 - Fr. Dennis J. O’Brien, Pastor
August 15, 2013 - Beginning of the 60th Anniversary celebration

Photo by Ed Collier
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people have assisted with this Commemorative Booklet, but at the top of the list are our Pastor, Father Dennis O’Brien and our Deacon, Timothy Cross (our printer-in-residence). It could not have been completed without their cooperation and patience along with that of the staff, Kathy Gravel, Wendy Mullin, Tracy Kennedy, and Joan Burns. Thanks to the 60th Anniversary Committee: Connie Ayles, Simone Blake, Joan Burns, Marcy Collier, Germaine Fagnant, Elaine Hackett, Judy Kowesky, Rose LeTarte, Kathleen Pliska, and Tim and Peg Shea (and their picnic planning committee) for their tireless work in planning our celebration. Thanks to professional photographer, Ed Collier, and everyone else who provided photographs, old and new, with special thanks to David Smith who helped scan and enhance photos, thanks to all who donated memorabilia for the Parish archives and provided written comments about their experiences here at Our Lady of the Lake.

We wish to acknowledge everyone who contributed in any way, who encouraged and supported, including praying for the success of our endeavor. Though it is impossible to include the names of all who have contributed to the success of this parish, everyone is here in Spirit.

In a special way, we want to acknowledge the hard work and countless hours spent by Simone Blake in compiling this booklet of historical vignettes and memories and cataloging the archives for this project.

This booklet belongs to all of us. It is not meant to be definitive, but to provide small fragments that might help to remember the journey from July 4, 1952 to June 8, 2014, and remind us why we are such an amazing parish community.

Thank You!
The bell which tolls at noon and 6 p.m. each day from Our Lady of the Lake’s steeple was cast in black brass in 1882 as a ship’s bell. It was purchased from the Boston Marine Exchange and electrified before being placed in the belfry in 1954. As a veteran of many sea voyages, it has withstood the test of time as has the church from which it tolls.

The use of bells in the Catholic Church, according to most sources, dates back to the fifth century when St. Paulinus, the bishop of Nola, introduced them as a way to alert monks to the times of worship. In the seventh century, Pope Sabinianus approved the use of bells to call the faithful to Mass.