

Picnic Brings Back Memories And Hope To Star of Sea “Orphans”

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It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood and to the parochial orphans of the Star of the Sea church it brought back memories of church cookouts past.

To Sean Glennon, co-chair of the Friends of Star of the Sea, it was a perfect day.

“Family, friends and neighbors were celebrating together and having a great time,” he said. “It reminded me of the good times we used to have on a regular basis when Star of the Sea was its own parish.”

To Maureen Mazrimas, the other co-chair, it was like a reunion of classmates who had been apart for too long.

“The last time we got together socially was the weekend after the 9-11 tragedy,” she said. “Now, seven years later, we knew it was definitely time to celebrate the vitality of the Star of the Sea community and that’s exactly what we did here.”

But it was more than just fun and nostalgia that drew at least 200 people to Sunday’s cookout at the Robert I. Nickerson Legion Post on Moon Island Road in Squantum.

It raised nearly \$3,500 for the Friends of Star of the Sea to continue pursuing its appeal to the Vatican on the slender chance it will regain its former stature as a parish.

Star of the Sea was suppressed by the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston in October, 2004; reopened as a chapel limited to one Sunday Mass a week in July, 2005; and has filed a number of appeals with the Vatican since then.

The Friends want recognition as a parish, said Mazrimas, “or at the very least, to provide the sacramental liturgies that are so important to each and every Catholic --- baptisms, weddings and funerals --- within the community.”

If the Archdiocese is earnest about it’s new faith renewal initiative called ‘Arise’, she said, “it seems shortsighted not to give the faithful all the tools necessary to fully experience and enhance their faith.”

Glennon said the money raised will be used for mailings, web hosting and maybe even civil litigation.

“the overwhelming support at this event gave us a mandate to push forward, even if our current appeal at the Vatican is denied,” he said. “We are committed to exercise every possible option to restore our faith community to full parish status.”

The Friends used the occasion to present the “Shining Star” awards to the late LeeAnn Ryan, who contributed so much of her time and energy to the organization, and Paul McCormack, a parishioner and usher for the past half century.

The prize was renamed the LeeAnn Ryan Shining Star Award and accepted by her sister, Lori Dow.

The event included face painting, tattooing, games and a moon walk ride for children and a raffle and auction for adults. The Norfolk County Sheriff’s Office mobile command center was also on site for viewing and fingerprinting.

Glennon and Mazrimas thanked the Nickerson Post for providing a venue, Sheriff Michael Bellotti and friends for manning the grills and other sponsors and volunteers for their efforts.