

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA 20TH SUMMER FESTIVAL

By Eleanor Miller

In the winter of 1979 when Fr. Joe Finnerty was pastor, a group of parishioners from St. Catherine of Siena Church met at the home of Bill and Florence Prue to discuss plans for organizing a Summer Festival. The focus was on creating an opportunity for the community to get together - families, children and adults, for socialization and recreation. To say that this group, as the saying goes, "got along on a shoestring" is an exaggeration; they didn't even have a shoestring! What they had was faith and enthusiasm in accomplishing their goal in spite of the fact that there was not even "seed" money or food booths, etc. They really started from "scratch." Gene Wolter and Ken Guarneri took on the task as the first chairpersons. Food and game booths were borrowed from St. Michael's Church in Pawcatuck and in June 1979 the first St. Catherine of Siena Festival was held! At the time the participants gave the festival a ten-year goal - but because of its popularity- here it is in 1999 still functioning twenty years later. After the first year parishioners built food and game booths which are still in use.

Many of the original volunteers are still active in festival proceedings. Although some have moved away they still come back to assist with the festival. One of the ~added attractions in recent years is the road race which has proved to be very popular. An outstanding feature of the festival is the variety of good food offered at reasonable prices. Also there is entertainment and Joe LoPresti is a veteran twenty-year performer who has entertained with his band at each festival, since its inception. Through the years there have been several chairpersons. The chairperson for this year's 20th St. Catherine of Siena

Summer Festival is Maria Curtis and the current pastor is Fr. Michael Smith. They both invite one and all to join in this annual celebration.

Pictured below: Ken Guarneri and Gene Wolter, first Chairpersons for ST. Catherine of Siena Festival, setting booths in 1979.



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA SUMMER FESTIVAL

by Ron Piccoli

Most people who live in or visit small towns do so because of the sense of community that seems to permeate everyday life. Community is more than a word, it is people coming together to enjoy each others company and to create an enjoyable environment for all to live in. It is often the events that a community sponsors that identify the character of

company and to create an enjoyable environment for all to live in. It is often the events that a community sponsors that identify the character of the town.

St. Catherine of Siena Church's Summer Festival is just such an event. For the past 20 years the festival has provided a meeting place for the whole community. It has been a time to meet, a time to chat, a time to share with old and new friends. This popular event, held on the church grounds at 243 Route 164, has something for all ages and interests. The three-day festival takes place on June 17, 18, and 19.

The festival opens at 6 PM on Thursday. The premiere event of the evening is the 3.8 mile Family Fun Run. This race is run on one of the most beautiful courses in Connecticut. At 7 PM the contestants line up in front of the church on Route 164. At the gun the runners proceed north to Amos Road and then east on Northwest Corner Road. This portion of the race takes the runners along a tree-lined street bordered by strawberry fields, blueberry bushes and Christmas trees from Maple Lane Farms. The runners then turn south to follow Hollowell Road around Amos Lake and back to Route 164 where they proceed north to the start/finish line.

Between the official opening and closing there are a variety of sights, sounds and events for each and everyone to enjoy. There are the familiar and well-liked games of chance as well as activities such as the Moonwalk and Funtastic Inflatables. You will also be entertained by bands, dancers and gymnasts. If browsing is your idea of a sport come and visit our wildlife booth or the plant and flower booth. For the younger members of the family there will be a tractor pull contest, clowns and face painting. There are other games of skill and of course lots of great food, such as our Famous Clam Chowder, Fritters and Fabulous Fried Dough.

For those who like to travel the back roads looking for undiscovered treasures and one of a kind items come to the towns largest yard sale. An indoor trash and treasure sale goes on all three nights of the festival and all day Saturday.

This festival closes on Saturday evening after drawing the raffle winners. The range of nine prizes offers great appeal to many.

Be a part of the Community. Come and enjoy the spirit of family at St. Catherine's Summer Festival. A full schedule of the three-day event can be found here in the *Pipeline* in the ad on page 4

SEE YOU THERE!



NEW ENGLAND
CLAM CHOWDER
FABULOUS FRITTERS

TAKE A BREAK' TAKE PART IN THE 20TH ANIVERSARY SUMMER FESTIVAL 99

FREE ADMISSION - RAIN OR SHINE

JUNE 17, 18 & 19

FREE ENTRY TICKET

For a chance to win a PRIZE
Drawing at 9:00 p.m. each night
Winner must be present



WILDLIFE BOOTH

GREAT

MOON WALK

GOOD
FOOD



GAMES
OF
SKILL



Array of
Beautiful Flower &
Vegetable Plants
For Sale

GAMES OF
CHANCE

SILENT AUCTION
(Featuring collectable
BEANIE BABIES)

PRIZES



THURSDAY, JUNE 17 6-10 pm

FRIDAY, JUNE 18 6-10 pm

6:00-10:00 p.m. - Fantastic Inflatables
7:00 p.m. - 3.8 Mile Family Fun Run
7:00-10:00 p.m. - Flatrock Band

6:00-7:00 p.m. - Norwich Barbershop Quartet
6:30-7:30 p.m. - Free Face Painting & Tatto's
7:00-8:00 p.m. - Danceworks Dance Centre
8:00-9:00 p.m. - Mike Bogdanski's Martial Arts

Please Note:
Saturday opening immediately
Following 4:00 p.m. Mass

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

5:30 p.m. - Childrens Tractor Pull
Ages 3-7 yrs. - Prizes Awarded
6:30-8:30 p.m. - Ringles The Clown
(Free Balloon Animals)

7:00-10:00 p.m. - Joe LoPresti's
Country Band
6:00-7:00 p.m. - Linda Tardiff's Flip
City Gymnastics



MUSIC

FRIED DOUGH

CLOWNS

Free Cake Saturday
night to celebrate
our 20th Anniversary

RAFFLE



SUPER SUNDAES

TRASH AND TREASURE SALE - Open 9:00 a.m to Closing on Saturday - Lunch Available 12:00-2:00 p.m.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH - RT. 164 Preston