

Letter

To the Editor of *Spritsail*:

We very much enjoyed the heartwarming portrait of the Emerald family in the Winter, 1998, edition of *Spritsail*. We appreciated the early photo of St. Anthony's Church and the mention of the part the strawberry growers contributed to the building of the Church.

We would like to share with you some differing dates as to the formation of the parish, which did not open on January 1, 1923, as has been widely disseminated.

From *The Falmouth Enterprise* files:

Jan. 6, 1923: Rev. Fr. T.F. Kennedy has secured land at East Falmouth on which to build a church for the Portuguese, also a rectory.

Jan. 20, 1923: Rev. Fr. Machado Fortuna who has been boarding at the Teaticket Inn will take up his residence in East Falmouth and will have charge of the new Catholic Church to be erected by the Portuguese in that village.

Dec. 29, 1923: NEW CHURCH COMPLETED...St. Anthony's Catholic Church will be opened to the public on New Year's Day...

Jan. 5, 1924: NEW CHURCH OPENED ...the new St. Anthony's Church in East Falmouth was opened on New Year's Day, masses being held at 9 and 11 o'clock...

As you can see, the Church was opened January 1, 1924, so this year we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the parish. Many parish events are planned, and the Country Fair, July 10, 11, and 12 will include music and costumes appropriate to 1923.

Thank you for allowing us to clarify this date.

Sincerely,

Reverend Leonard Mullaney
Pastor, St. Anthony's