



IN THE MAKING



Bemvindos á Gala do 90° Aniversario da Sociedade do Divino Espirito Santo Sabado, dia 2 de Novembro, 2013

Welcome to Holy Ghost Society's 90th Anniversary Gala Saturday, November 2, 2013



Em Memória

Dos Membros Falecidos da Sociedade do Divino Espirito Santo

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<u>Mensagem da Direcção</u>

A Sociedade do Divino Espirito Santo tem constituido ao longo de 90 anos de existência, uma das maiores organizacoes de caracter social e religioso na cidade de Lowell. Têm dado um contributo muito importante aos seus sócios e á comunidade em geral, através do culto mais tradicional e mais querido do nosso povo Português, que e manter viva a devoção e tradição do Divino Espirito Santo.

E com o alto objectivo de preservação das suas raizes e tradiçoes culturais, prestanto Sempre um bom serviço á comunidade Portuguesa.

Desejamos apresentar o nosso profundo agaradecimento a toda a comissão organizadora da celebração dos 90 anos, todos os patrocinadores do livro comemorativo, e especialmente a todos vos.

- A Direcção de 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For the last 90 years, the Holy Ghost Society has been one of the largest social and religious organizations in the city of Lowell. It has been the center for many activities for its members and the community in general, as well as preserving one of the most treasured Portuguese traditions, the devotion and tradition to the Holy Ghost.

In such a joyous occasion, we would like to take this opportunity, from the bottom of our hearts, to thank the organizing committee, all sponsors of this commemorative book, and most of all, each and every one of you.

2013 QUEEN OF THE HOLY GHOST SOCIETY



2013 Queen of the Holy Ghost Society Kayla Reis, with her attendants Selena Reis and Miranda Melo

FIRST QUEEN OF THE HOLY GHOST SOCIETY



The First Queen of the Holy Ghost Society (1959) Mary Caires with her attendants Mary Cunha and Zaida Farinha

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Origins of the Feast of the Holy Ghost

Wherever Azorean Communities exist, the Festas do Espirito Santo, The Feast of the Holy Ghost, are celebrated with great devotion. Intense popular devotion to the Holy Ghost, uncommon in other Catholic countries, is profoundly central to the religious lives of the Azorean people. The Holy Ghost, the third person of the Blessed Trinity in Roman Catholic theology, is considered to be almost a separate deity in the Azores, where He is Personified as a deified human being, and presented as a powerful male.

In the Azores, the symbol of the Holy Ghost, the "Coroa", a silver crown with, a dove with outstretched wings on top, combines the dove -- the traditional Catholic symbol of the Holy Ghost with the Portuguese imperial crown, a symbol of secular power and authority. The configuration of religious activities, appropriate to these Holy Ghost celebrations, are specific to the Azores.

Many popular legends, told over and over during the celebrations, attribute the origins of these Feasts to Saint Isabel, the wife of King Dom Dinis, and Queen of Portugal from 1295 to 1322. Saint Isabel was born in the year 1271, and from her earliest years, displayed a deep faith and piety to God. From the time she married Dom Dinis until her death, she was revered throughout her Kingdom for her acts of charity, humility and devotion to her God and his people. She was known as "the angel of charity," by her subjects for her devotion to the poor. She was also known as "the mother of peace." Because of her intervention in the hour of a battle when she, unaccompanied, entered a battlefield, and reconcile kings and princes thus ending the horror of war. After this great act of bravery and Christian love, she returned to her village of Alenquer. One night, in a dream, a voice from Heaven proclaimed that Queen Isabel should establish a brotherhood of the Holy Ghost in thanksgiving for the peace obtained and build a church in honor of the Holy Ghost in the village.

The next morning, the Queen attended a Mass and during the Mass a vision appeared to her, further detailing the plans for the project she had seen in her dreams. Immediately, she met with the carpenters and workmen to begin work on the project and headed for the site indicated to her in her dreams. Miraculously, when they reached the designed site they found the foundation already formed and the plan of the building in outline. This unexplainable event was witnessed by her husband, the King, and the entire village of Alenquer.

During the period of construction, many miracles occurred, a sign that the work was divinely inspired. The work was rapidly completed and stands today as one of the most beautiful and richest chapels of the Holy Spirit in the world. The King ordered that the most precious and costly vestments and furnishings be used in the chapel and, with great pomp and solemnity, the first Mass was celebrated in the chapel Pentecost Sunday. On that day the sovereigns instituted the Brotherhood of the Holy Ghost to insure that until the end of time there should never cease to exist the devotion to the Holy Ghost in the beautiful sanctuary in Alenquer. A solemn procession was part of that first celebration, in which the entire court and nobility took part. Games, tournaments and bullfights were part of the festivities. One of the statutes of the original brotherhood was that seven bulls highly ornamented, should be run and their meat, together with a loaf of bread, would be distributed to the poor. Since that day, throughout these many centuries, the feast of the Holy Ghost has been celebrated in Alenquer with great devotion and festivities. Queen Isabel returned to the church in Alenquer every year to offer a great candle which burned before the main altar during the octave of Pentecost. When a great famine and epidemic occurred in Lisbon and surrounding areas, including Alenquer, and many people were dying daily, a great penitential procession was held, during which the candle offered by Queen was carried and immediately the epidemic began to diminish until it ended entirely.

During the Pentecost season, the Queen, as an act of humility, would wash the linens of the sick and the poor of the village of Alenquer, in the local river. Many people witnessed this great act of devotion, and after her death the river was venerated and waters were known to possess miraculous curative powers.

Many miracles were attributed to Queen Isabel following her death on July 4, 1336. After her death, steps were taken to have Queen Isabel canonized a saint. On June 1, 1616 Pope Paul IV declared her blessed and gave permission to the people of Portugal to carry her crown and relics through the streets in solemn procession. From this original crown, worn by St. Isabel, have been fashioned the many crowns now in existence. Made of pure silver, they have on them the symbol of the Holy Ghost, in the form of a dove on top of the crown and on the scepter, in memory of her great devotion to the third person of the blessed trinity.

Over the years, many miracles were attributed to Queen Isabel, two of which were experienced by Pope Urbano III. On May 25, 1625, Trinity Sunday, Pope Urbano III canonized Queen Isabel as a saint.

From her original brotherhood of the Holy Ghost, formed in Alenquer, there have been many brotherhoods established throughout the world wherever Azorean people have immigrated. Splendid feasts are planned -- meat and bread are distributed to the poor and members of the brotherhoods, solemn religious observances are held, members of the brotherhood are crowned in solemn ceremonies in the church, and the day is spent feasting and rejoicing for the many blessings received from the Holy Ghost.

Beginning at the end of the last century and the beginning of third century when the Azorean people started coming to this country, they brought with them the tradition of the feasts of the Holy Ghosts. Since the arrival of the Portuguese people in Lowell, Massachusetts, feasts have been held. The Holy Ghost Society, Inc. was officially established 90 years ago on August 24, 1923.

The purpose of the Holy Ghost Society was to furnish a place and means for the education and recreation of its members and for the social, religious and civic purposes among its members. With the initial purchase of two and a half acres of land, the society had a home. Over the years, the society has improved its facilities until now, where a beautiful hall and outdoor area is available for the society to celebrate the feasts of the Holy Ghost with great dignity.

For ninety years, the Holy Ghost has blessed and guided the members of the society and their families. We give thanks on this great milestone in the life of the society for the love of the Holy Ghost, and ask for his continued blessings in the future.



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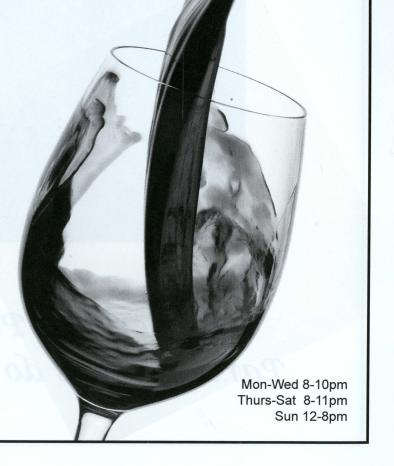
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In Loving Memory of Manuel Silveira & Maria R. Silveira

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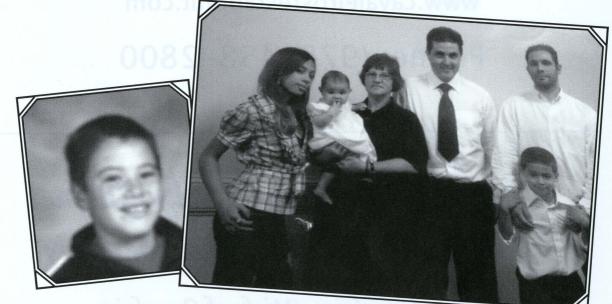
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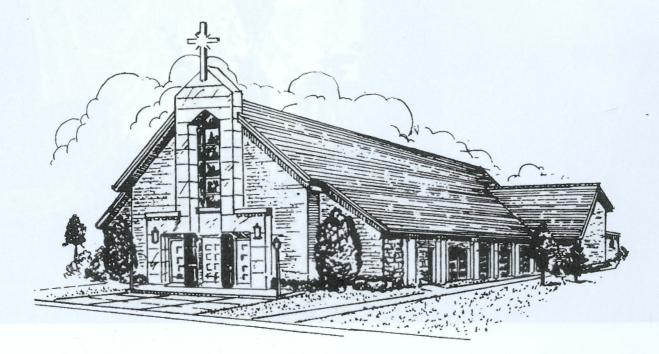
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Remembered by:

Sílvína Bettencourt and the Bettencourt Famíly

Joe Bettencourt, Míchael Bettencourt, and Sandy Bolarínho



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Orlando Borba, Esposa e Filhos



Em Memória dos Seus Pais Fernando e Palmira Borba Elias Pimentel

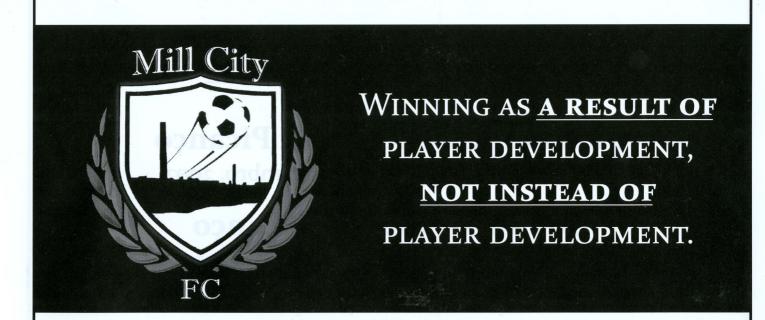
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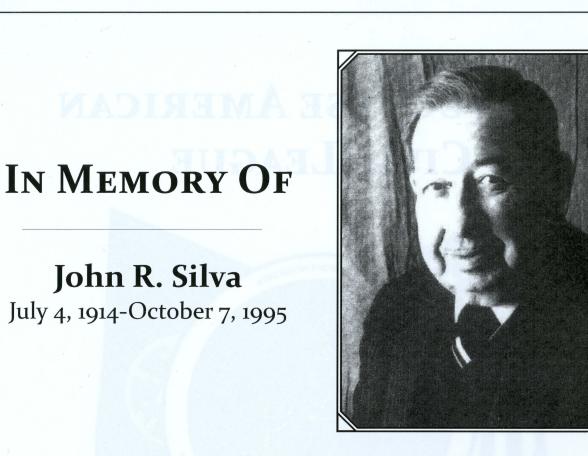
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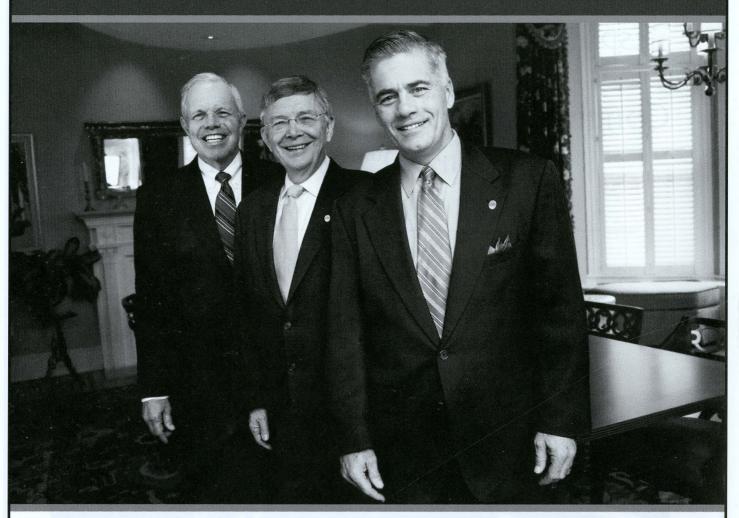
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