

The Roman Catholic mission chapel of *Our Lady of the Assumption* known as St. Mary's celebrated its first mass on September 6, 1926. The chapel served the community for 26 years.



Figure 1 *Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel*

It was then canonically erected as a parish on September 3, 1952 when Bishop John J. Wright (who later became Cardinal Wright) personally gave the new congregation its present name. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Worcester, Most Reverend John J. Wright, had been so impressed with the picturesque hills of Bond Hill to the northwest and Randall's Ledge to the south, that he renamed the newly created parish '*St. Mary of the Hills.*' By 1982 the fifth pastor, Reverend Paul J. Tougas ascertained that the church edifice was inadequate for the parish which had grown to 1500 members. The Parish Council sought vigorously to obtain a site for their new church and they broke ground on the 13-acre tract of land at Barlin Acres off Cross Street on April 6, 1991.



Figure 2 *St. Mary of the Hills Chapel*

The building at 150 Main Street was then sold to the Liberty Assembly of God Church and in 1999 they too needed larger facilities for their congregation, selling the building to Calliope Productions which had been founded in February 1982 by David Ludt, Kathy Ludt, and John Leslie- three veteran community theatre performers in the Worcester County (MA) area. Early productions were performed in the First Parish Church of Northborough. In the spring of 1999, Calliope Productions received a grant from the George S. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation to purchase the property at 150 Main Street in Boylston, Massachusetts. After some initial improvements, many theatrical productions have been performed throughout the years. In 2007 a major addition was begun and it was completed by 2009 in time for the Valentine's Day weekend production of the musical revue *Love is in the Air.*

We offer our gratitude and congratulations to Calliope staff and performers as they celebrate 40 years of theatrical productions with an expanded repertoire of 8 shows in 2022.



Figure 3 *Calliope Theatre*
150 Main Street, Boylston, Massachusetts
Photograph courtesy of Vicky Triolo