

## Chapter Fifteen

A SEPARATE PROVINCIAL RESIDENCE

With the appointment on July 31, 1921 of Fr. Patrick F. O'Gorman as vice-provincial of the New England regio, and with Fr. General's instruction that its headquarters were to be in Boston, the first provincial residence was a room on the second floor of St. Mary's Hall. A year later when the staff was increased by the appointment of Br. James L. Kilmartin as coadjutor socius, the brother was assigned to some unknown nearby room. With the appointment of Fr. Louis J. Gallagher as Socius in the fall of 1926, he was assigned to the room closely adjoining that of the provincial. When Fr. Joseph H. Rockwell was appointed as the first procurator of the province in 1926, he lived at Weston College (then Fairview) until his death on August 1, 1927. His two successors, Fr. James F. Mellyn (1927-1928), and Fr. Joseph J. Williams (1928-1931) resided at 761 Harrison Avenue. When Fr. Edward P. Tivnan was appointed as province treasurer in 1931 he came to reside at Boston College.

By the late summer of 1931, the new wing added to St. Mary's Hall made provision for a nucleus of the provincial curia at the end of the second floor. Within the next few years other staff members resided at Boston College -- Fr. George M. Murphy as province procurator of missions, Br. Thomas J. Howarth as secretary of the Jesuit Seminary Guild, Fr. William J. Murphy as province prefect of studies distinct after 1934 from the task of provincial Socius. So from 1921 to 1934, the size of the curia in residence at St. Mary's Hall was on the increase. Elsewhere, in 1934, resided the director of the mission band (Fr. Joseph Green in the North End St. Mary's) and Fr. Mellyn at Harrison Avenue in charge of the Jesuit Seminary Guild. But a question became more pointed about these living arrangements in view, too, of an increasing need for faculty rooms at Chestnut Hill despite the 1931 addition.

Serious action for some other curia residence began with an instruction on May 3, 1935 of Fr. Provincial, James T. McCormick, to his Socius, Fr. James H. Dolan. A serious search was to be made for a separate provincial residence. With Fr. Dolan deeply immersed in seeing construction at Pomfret expeditiously finished and the house properly furnished, he began to search within a day through the Boardman Realtors, then located in the Ames building on Court Street. On May 4, 1935, a list of available locations was forwarded to Fr. Dolan from the Newbury Street branch office of Boardman's. With this firm's representative -- Reginald Boardman -- Fr. Dolan visited the following day three places. One was a house at an unspecified corner of Fairfield and Commonwealth, a place at 142 Chestnut Street, and one at the corner of Beacon Street and, strangely, some side street

which the usually meticulous notes of Fr. Dolan left blank. None of the three was judged to be satisfactory.

After an interval, the search resumed. On August 12, 1935 on a day when Fr. Dolan was busy selecting carpet material for Pomfret at Paine's and obtaining samples of wall paper from Lloyd's at 420 Boylston Street, he found time to examine the Peabody estate on Ivy Street in Brookline. It was not considered satisfactory. Things were again quiet, for three months. A call to Boardman's on November 21, 1935 led to a survey of three places on the following day. A possible residence at 420 Beacon Street was locked, and the key on hand could not unlock the door. This mishap put an end to the consideration of this place. Another residence at 347 Beacon Street was also examined. One house inspected that day, the Nathaniel Thayer residence at 22 Fairfield Street seems to have had points to recommend it. On November 28, it was again examined by Fr. Dolan, along with Fr. Louis J. Gallagher, rector of Boston College and Fr. William Lynch, then the province treasurer. The next day the blueprints were obtained from Boardman's for more detailed study. However, on December 4, 1935, they were returned and the conclusion announced that even this house, as well as all the others viewed, were not adaptable to the needs of a provincial residence.

This problem of a separate provincial residence was first fully discussed in the provincial consultors meeting of December 19, 1935. The rector of Boston College indicated his readiness to continue the residence of the curia there, or to acquiesce to move it elsewhere. Frs. Fox, John Lyons and Francis Dolan all favored a change. Then Fr. Dolan outlined his searches from the preceeding May, and nothing that was seen was judged suitable or unpretentious enough.

Some other possibilities were cited by Fr. McCormick and he replied to them in statements which he appeared to make on his own. An added floor might be built on to the Cooper Street Rectory, but there were doubts on its ownership -- archdiocesan or Society, and no more was heard on this subject. There was the possibility of the mansion at Weston, but the faculty still needed its rooms and the theologians their parlors. Also, the presence of the seismograph then in the basement could be a problem. Weston in those days before Route 128 and the Massachusetts Turnpike was too far for reasonable accessibility. Moreover, a large community, such as the Weston College one was awkwardly connected with a provincial residence and its need for privacy. So these two possibilities were dispatched.

During the July of 1936, new searches began through the instrumentality of the Riley Real Estate Company. On July 13, 1936 both Fr. Provincial and Fr. Dolan with a Riley agent visited four places. These were the Victor Cutter house on Center Street in Newton; the Hopewell House on Waverley Avenue in Newton; the Hunt estate at 17 Gloucester Street at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue; and the Sears estate in Brookline near Jamaica Pond. The following day, July 14,

Fr. Dolan and Fr. William Lynch visited the Liggett estate in Chestnut Hill. Five years later, when Boston College was planning to purchase this residence and surrounding estate, Cardinal O'Connell paid the \$50,000 asking price and donated it to Boston College. Hence his name appears on the original mansion around which have clustered an extensive group of dormitories, many named for his predecessors in Boston. By this time in July, 1936, Fr. Dolan estimated that he had viewed some 15 to 20 places and all were either unsuitable or too elaborate or both.

A new turn now took place. This was the idea of sharing a place with some other activity. When Hardcourt in North Andover was being considered as a site for a retreat house, the idea was ventured that due to the size of this house, the curia might reside there as well as the retreat cadre and its retreatants. A letter of August 8, 1936 proposed this solution to Fr. General. On October 8, 1936 he disapproved of this arrangement unless this choice of a provincial residence at North Andover was meant to be permanent. Since this arrangement did not seem to be planned except as temporary, the project was dropped.

All these unsuccessful attempts led to a full-scale discussion of this whole matter in a consultants meeting on September 29, 1937 -- a full year later. There was now a new provincial -- James H. Dolan, who was the driving force in the earlier searches and conclusions. Only Fr. Fox was left of the consultants who had thrashed out this matter in detail in December, 1935. There were three new consultants: Fr. Robert Hewitt, Fr. William J. Murphy and Fr. Francis J. Dolan. All were in agreement that a suitable separate provincial residence was needed, and action followed quickly. At the consultants meeting on October 21, 1937, a definite choice was available -- the Weld estate on the corner of Sherburne Street and Bay State Road. It could accommodate 15 people, had provision for one or two reasonably private first-floor offices, large rooms on the second floor for chapel and recreation room. Its current owners had bought it in the hope of opening a school here, but had been stymied in this endeavor. They had also spent money in a variety of new installations and renovations, which helped to explain the asking price of \$36,000. After lunch that day the consultants and Fr. William J. McGarry examined the house where they were met by Fr. Lynch and two real estate agents. On returning to Boston College, all of the group, the consultants and Fr. McGarry, favored the purchase of the Weld Estate.

A few days later, on October 25, 1937, there was a final dismissal of a hitherto undisclosed plan to buy a row of houses on East Newton Street in the South End, adjoining the B.C.H. recreation yard. This purchase would have included all that Fr. McElroy wished to buy on Harrison Avenue, between East Concord and East Newton, back to James Street. At that time he was limited by the city, out of fear of too great Catholic control, to the site of the church and residence. It was now seen in 1937 that the cost of these buildings

would be greater than the cost of the Weld property. Moreover, these houses were unconnected, as was and, for the most part, still is true of Newbury Street. The fire department objected to interconnecting doors. It is of interest to note that, even prior to this announcement of the availability of the Weld property, three members of the curia had moved from Boston College to 45 East Newton Street. Fr. George M. Murphy, Mission Procurator, Br. Thomas J. Howarth of the Jesuit Seminary Guild moved on April 23, and Fr. William J. Lynch, province treasurer, moved there on April 24. In this same meeting Fr. Hewitt, as rector of Weston, explained the set-up of the Merriam Mansion which, though later demolished, was then standing. The mansion could serve for the curia with limited alterations, at least for a time. It might have to be limited to the most immediate members of the curia, and discussion then turned again to residing at North Andover even as a permanent, though remote, location.

When the crucial vote was called for on the Weld estate, there were two outright votes for it. A third consultor favored the purchase only if it were clear that its purpose would not be a burden on other houses, because additional funds would necessarily be raised from revenue-producing houses or from skimping on province houses. A fourth consultor favored the use of the Merriam estate or some other already owned property. Buying a separate residence at the price asked when other province property was available could easily be a source of scandal. Since Fr. James H. Dolan, now provincial, favored a separate residence and had located the Weld property after a prolonged search, negotiations for its purchase, and the necessary Society and archdiocesan clearances went forward. On November 17, 1937 Cardinal O'Connell approved the establishment of a new religious house in his jurisdiction, but noted that the clearance was given, as was asked, for a house with administrative, but not parochial functions. This same proviso, it might be added, was made concerning the request to the chancellor of the Hartford archdiocese for a Jesuit students' residence in New Haven. Such a grant would be gladly extended in New Haven as long as it was clear that the residence was not to compete with or parallel the activities of the St. Thomas More Center at Yale University.

When everything seemed propitious for the Weld purchase, a totally unexpected offer of a gift of property was brought to the attention of the province by Fr. Francis J. Coyne, then a philosophy teacher at Boston College. In his diary for November 9, 1937, Fr. Dolan noted that on the preceding day, Monday, November 8, he had learned that Miss Margaret Rogers, owner of a series of houses on Newbury Street, was prepared to give them in return for life occupancy in one of the houses and an annual subsidy of \$1,800. The property consisted of the Fenway Hospital which Miss Rogers and her deceased sister had conducted in what had been two adjoining houses (300 and 298 Newbury Street). The entrance at the original 300 had been removed so that the hospital, now one building, had been made up

of two. The present number 300 is on the door of what was originally 298 Newbury Street. This hospital area, made up of fully interconnecting sections out of the original 298 and 300, is what is termed A house. Next to this hospital area, 296 Newbury Street was totally unconnected with the hospital and not owned by Miss Rogers. She believed it could be bought for \$5,000, a much underestimated price. There was also a \$12,000 mortgage on this house, now known as B house. Numbers 294 and 292 did belong to Miss Rogers; the house at 294, known as C house, was the nurses' home and was a gift as was A house. The final house at 292, known as D house, was to be retained for Miss Rogers' use in her lifetime, but the property would be part of the gift. When the property was examined as much as it could be, it was considered a better arrangement than would be the purchase of the Weld property.

Two permissions were now sought. Cardinal O'Connell was personally asked to transfer his authorization from Weld to Newbury. On November 18, 1937 the Cardinal responded favorably, and indicated his pleasure with the newer arrangement. The reply from Rome came on January 22, 1937 in the name of Fr. Norbert deBoynes, then acting Vicar for Fr. General. He wanted more information on the whole arrangement and insisted on the purchase of B house before A, C and D could be accepted. A follow-up telegram from Fr. Zacheus Maher, the American Assistant, approved the purchase as long as B house was acquired. It was soon learned that the owner of B house (296) wanted \$15,000, not \$5,000 for this property. On February 20, 1938, the consultants favored the purchase at the current asking price of \$14,500, presumably (although it is not mentioned) including the \$12,000 mortgage.

Was the necessary money available? Although the province considered itself in poor financial straits, it judged that it could borrow up to \$32,000 presumably for purchase along with mortgage, repairs, furnishings and subsidy. At this juncture, Fr. Francis J. Dolan, Rector at Holy Cross, offered interest-free an amount of \$70,000, not as a loan, but as an accommodation. Whether this was done is not clear from the Socius' diary or the consultants minutes.

Arrangements on necessary repairs began promptly. A very long visit on February 8, 1938 by Frs. Dolan, Murphy and Lynch convinced them that extensive repairs were needed in the hospital section (A house) to make it decent for living quarters. Although \$500 was paid down by Fr. Lynch for B house on that same day, the conditions in that edifice were unknown until those who rented that property finally vacated it in April. The strong hand of Fr. Dolan which is very evident in his tireless watchfulness and minute attention to details in the building, remodeling and equipping of North Andover and Pomfret was soon removed. He had to leave for Rome on February 20 as a delegate to the 28th General Congregation along with Fr. John M. Fox and Fr. Daniel F. Creeden. The chief items on the agenda were the social order and a permanent vicar for Fr. General. That so much detail is

known on the early rehabilitation of the Newbury Street property is due to a series of letters which Fr. William J. Murphy, as acting provincial, forwarded to Fr. Dolan for his advice and information.

The first of Fr. Murphy's letters was dated March 5, 1938. Mr. Dick, with whom the province had been doing ecclesiastical work on chapels, had indicated his prices for the projected main chapel in A house. His charges were considered high: he wanted \$525 for benches, \$550 for the altar, \$125 for the dossal, \$110 for a carved crucifix, \$240 for candlesticks and \$100 for other items. He did suggest that kneeler chairs at perhaps \$8 each could substitute for the benches, and thus halve the cost. At some stage, benches were chosen. Granted that Mr. Dick was expensive, his work, Fr. Murphy noted, was known to be good. It was also true, Mr. Murphy pointed out, that in a recent bid on a vestment case for Holy Cross, Mr. Dick proved to be \$40 higher than a cabinet maker. The chapel was located to the front of the house and up against the wall of 302 Newbury. It is still the mass-liturgry room, but the Blessed Sacrament is reserved across the small foyer in which is today a prayer room.

The second letter was dated March 17, 1939 when a raging snow-storm was buffeting Boston. Emmet Logue's estimates, limited to A house, had come the preceding day. The total cost was \$10,000, including plumbing, electrical work and fixtures, painting of floors, doors and walls. The plumbing arrangements called for two showers on each floor, but this was to be modified to one except on one floor to supply a private shower for the provincial. As to the electrical work, Mr. Logue had called in the firm which worked at North Andover. This firm insisted that none of the wiring would pass inspectors, but Fr. Lynch had this assertion examined. It seemed strange to him that what was satisfactory for a hospital would be so defective in a residence. Logue tended to agree with the contractors as he had when he first saw the place before Fr. Dolan had departed. Fr. Murphy believed that even though little could be salvaged, the price of \$2,500 was too high and, therefore, proposed a look by a second contractor. There was no doubt on the need of painting and of \$1860 for it, as cleanliness and sanitation demanded it. Miss Rogers was herself making some changes in C house with plumbing, painting and the laying of linoleum at an estimate of from \$700 to \$1000. One wonders if too many hands were getting into the act. Some \$500 was the estimate for changes in D house where Miss Rogers continued to live. B house was still a mystery. The tenants were slow to move, and apparently had allowed no one in to survey the situation, which in actuality could be considered the damage. Fr. Lynch at the moment was estimating furnishings at \$3,500, which appeared, it would seem, to apply only to A house or possibly to A and C. The overall estimate of \$16,000 seemed to be able to be cut to \$13,000 or \$14,000. With a few more details more definite, Fr. Murphy planned to call the meeting on expenses of the province consultants plus the treasurer and former treasurer, Fr. Williams. Fr. Dolan had required this meeting, and at this stage Fr. Murphy sought Fr. Dolan's advice as to whether he had

presumed too much.

By March 22, Fr. Murphy could be much more definite as he wrote to Fr. Dolan. The consultants and advisers had met the previous day, the first day of spring with the temperature at 66°. The group had placed the extraordinary expenses needing permission at \$12,500. So excellent were the walls and ceilings in A house judged, that soap and water could replace the painting which had earlier been judged imperative for sanitation. This plan reduced the cost of painting from \$1,800 to \$1,000, but Fr. Murphy still believed the whole \$1,800 would be needed. Due to a felix culpa, plumbing costs in A house were \$2,200, rather than \$2,500. The total new wiring of A house must be done. However, the estimate of the original bidder was reduced to \$1,700 or \$1800 by Mr. Stanton who had been recommended for his work at St. John's Seminary. All the other estimates remained the same. These include \$3,900 for the Logue's as contractors, \$1,000 for C house, \$500 for D house, \$500 as an estimate on the unseen B house, and \$1,700 as a margin for undetermined or incorrect estimates. Thus the total for rehabilitation was \$12,500. All consultants and advisers were to send their views separately. No estimates had been made on furnishings since they were considered as ordinary expenses.

There was also discussion on this day of visit and estimates of the location of the dining room. Was it to be downstairs where it was actually placed and still remains, or upstairs in what is now the prayer room opposite the chapel and close to the elevator? No firm conclusion was reached. It was assumed that the provincial and his socius would reside in A house, but they could be scattered in several houses if Fr. Dolan so wished. The question of the provincial's private bath was referred to. It could easily be arranged with a room in B or C house, but was impossible in A house. Two days later a brief letter reported work about to begin and about the early evacuation of B house. Fr. Lynch was reported as fantasizing about a treasurer's office in the former X-ray room (now the prayer room) and using what is the present sacristy as a connecting bedroom. Miss Rogers was reported ill with a heavy cold and fever.

The following letter of April 7, 1938 was a reaction to disappointments expressed by Fr. Dolan in a March 20th letter and an April 1 cable. He had been disappointed in the sums to be expended and had urged new bids on plumbing and electricity as well as on the Logue contract cost. He had to be told that both the electrical and plumbing work was so much in progress that no change could be made. As it was, five plumbers and three electricians had originally submitted bids and the lowest had been selected. The bid of a second contractor Cantwell, had been examined by Fr. Lynch and was found higher than the Logue one. Change was now precluded because work had begun, and, moreover, the lowest bidders had been chosen. Logue, Donahue and Stanton were reliable as well as inexpensive contractors. As work had progressed in the plumbing, old pipes found rotten and overpatched

had to be replaced by new piping. The old main was also too narrow, and drains from the showers emptying into the sewer main necessitated a new drain pipe, thereby causing much cutting by both plumbers and electricians. Many new doors had been needed, especially those leading to the fire escapes. The planned lavatory arrangements seemed satisfactory, but the cost of running water in the rooms would be very high. Throughout all this, there was one optimistic note: Mr. Dick had cut his prices by \$135, hence the chapel would cost \$1,690.

There was evidently some view expressed by Fr. Dolan on the location of the refectory. While not favoring a basement one, he would accept it willingly. A proposal for breaking down some wall to make a first-floor larger refectory would be exorbitant. A basement refectory was admittedly a problem, but it could be made bright and cheerful, and Fr. Lynch wondered why all the fuss about its location. Those who were to live at 300 would be lucky to have a few potatoes for their main meal and an apple for dessert. Fr. Murphy planned a definite decision the next day. Even as he thought of the basement refectory, he conceded that it would probably still be cheerless. It should be noted that when the novices moved into 300 in September of 1971, a novice crew under John D. Murphy of California, Georgetown, Navy and telephone background did wonders with paint in this refectory and elsewhere. But the real touch of the cheerfulness, which Fr. Murphy feared was an impossibility, came when a group of novices under George Bilotta during a spruce-up week repainted the refectory and its interconnecting sliding doors with pastel shades. This refurbishing was done a few months before Fr. Murphy died, and he never had the opportunity to see his fears dissipated.

The last of Fr. Murphy's letters dated April 29, 1938 focused first of all on an added gift which Miss Rogers was prepared to bestow. This was a cottage at Point of Pines beach in Revere, Massachusetts. She was anxious to know if the gift was to be accepted so that she could plan on renting it or not for the coming summer. All the cottages in that beach area are small, but of good condition, have a small plot of green grass and face on an automobile road separating the line of cottages from the beach. Miss Rogers' cottage stood just where the road following the beach makes a hairpin turn and was thus free of neighbors on the front and north side. On the south side it is very close to the next cottage. The width of a garage separated it on the west from the nearest cottage, and the house itself, in good condition, was well furnished and had a good but public porch. There were three rooms on the first floor, three on the second floor and two in an attic. There was also a fine basement with a room and accommodations for one more occupant; the basement also had a boiler for steam heat. The house was judged the best in the area with the best location and had a relatively slight mortgage on it of \$800. It was not on a public type of beach such as Revere Beach several miles away, or as private as Cohasset or Keyser. Fr. Hewitt had some happy thoughts about its use: it could serve as

a day-villa for the Weston faculty, but the consultants did not favor its acceptance. Miss Rogers was told to go ahead with its renting for the 1938 summer. She could consider its sale since she had two prospective buyers. One can feel it in his bones that today it would have been acceptable for use by small groups or small communities since these days privacy is less of a fetish and good conduct the ideal.

The Point of Pines cottage now gave way in Fr. Murphy's final letter before the return of Fr. Dolan to more prosaic matters connecting A house. All of the floors in A house had but one shower including the floor where an extra one had been planned for the use of Fr. Provincial. The plumbing contractor indicated that he could put one any place as long as the client wished to pay, but plumbing arrangements had gone so far that Fr. Murphy judged that one on each floor must suffice. The room planned to adjoin the provincial main room was very small, and if this room must contain a safe, files, bed and chair, it would be very crowded. A closet was being built into the room to avoid a wardrobe and plans for a second staircase from the first floor to the refectory area had been abandoned. Access to the refectory would be easy from the basement stop of the elevator. The kitchen and refectory areas had been separated and a window cut in the intervening wall. Through this window it was planned that food would be served into the dining room. One could gather that such a plan, if originally used, did not persist very long. As to heating the refectory, it was planned to replace the radiator well up on the wall with two floor radiators. One must judge that this proved impossible, as it is still on the wall. When the novices came in 1971, another effort was made to remove this oddly-placed radiator, but it was found to be impossible to change the location in view of the piping arrangements.

It is interesting to note Fr. Murphy's enthusiasm for the French door which led from the refectory to the backyard. Its function was to give light and air. During the cool weather it is kept locked, and when a screen door is in use there in hot months, the screen door is kept locked. Strangers still knock on it to be told to try the door to their right. Another possible entrance through the kitchen is discouraged, and preference is given to the B house exit. This B house exit became the ordinary mode of entrance and exit when its basement room, interconnected in 1971 for the first time with the A house refectory, became a fine novice recreation room instead of a dumping attic on the ground floor (if attics are found in cellars).

There are some remarks, not too clear, about the front parlors and their privacy. Some \$500 or \$600 was needed for fire doors between sections of A house and between A and B house. Beyond the passageway from A to B and C houses on the first floor, no other interconnection on upper floors was possible due chiefly to the locations of toilet facilities. Nor was it feasible to make cuts at the landings between floors of these houses because the space thus obtain-

ed would be merely a passage four feet high.

B house had been referred to in this letter of April 29, 1938. The whole and unpleasant truth about it had been learned, and the tenants had left by April 25th. The cost of changes must rise from \$500 to \$2000. The house was so dirty that it must be painted from top to bottom at a cost of \$500. The wiring was also very bad and \$869 was the estimate for reviving it plus a small part of C (294) house. Cutting and plastering would entail another \$1000 cost. It was fortunate that C house, the nurse's residence, needed very little expense except for plumbing on the first floor where it was planned that two people would live. Another ray of hope lay in the possibility that B house and perhaps C house could be painted by Br. John Servaas and Br. Italo Parnoff on a loan from the (then) Fr. McEleney at Shadowbrook. Holy Cross electricians might do the electrical work in B house, but some labor dispute might arise since all electricity was arranged on one meter.

How all of these hopes and fears were realized is not known. Although Fr. Dolan arrived back only on June 7th, there were no other letters to him available after April 29th, 1938. The only recorded data was the plumbing in B and C houses. But whatever was done, A, B and C houses were ready for occupancy by the end of the following July. A special gift paid for the furnishings of common and private rooms. This gift was a sum of \$18,000 from Mrs. Margaret Farrell of Albany and Gloucester. The official records simply list with sincere thanks a benefactor, but a letter of Fr. George M. Murphy, a friend along with the late William L. Johnson of Mrs. Farrell, indicated the sources of the benefaction and his personal letter of gratitude to Mrs. Farrell. She was a sister-in-law of Fr. Joseph A. Farrell, who was the third member of the papal relief mission to Russia. She was also a benefactor in a variety of ways to Shadowbrook, which she often visited from Albany. She died at her summer home at Gloucester on August 14, 1944 and her funeral on the 16th was attended by Frs. Dolan, Gallagher, McLaughlin and McDermott from the Newbury Street residence.

The furnishings obtained through Mrs. Farrell's donation did not include the incipient library. In the July of 1938, Fr. Dolan commissioned a father to visit each of the houses of the province to request surplus books of a theological, ascetical and literary character. All the houses visited, except St. Mary's in the North End, were able to contribute. When Fr. F.X. Downey resided at Newbury Street in its early days and edited the Jesuit Seminary News, he obtained books for review by some of Ours. But he asked that the reviewers be willing to donate these reviewed books to the 300 Newbury Street library.

On August 2, 1938, the first of the new occupants arrived. Fr. John M. Maher of the Weston faculty was appointed as minister. The house initially had no separate superior since it had been established

as one dependent on Weston. Fr. Maher was joined by the three members of the curia who had been living at East Newton Street, Frs. Lynch, George Murphy, Brs. Howarth and Ahern. On August 9, the province books were moved from Boston College and Friday, August 12 was set as the official opening day. The official name of the house became the St. Andrew Bobola House in honor of the Jesuit Saint canonized that year, and whose relics had been brought from Russia to Rome amid excursions and alarms by Fr. Louis J. Gallagher. The first major ecclesiastical event in the main chapel, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, was the final vows of Br. Howarth on August 15th. The following day the residence was visited by the travelling American Assistant, Fr. Zacheus Maher. The first province consultors meeting was held there on September 15. On September 21, the superiors of the province met, and this day technically was considered the formal opening of the house. Prior to both of these meetings, Miss Rogers and some of her friends were invited to a tea at her home at 292 Newbury Street -- the later D house. Then they were shown the first floor changes in houses A, B, and C. The afternoon visit concluded with benediction celebrated by Fr. Provincial for her benefaction to the St. Andrew's House; the following November 3, Fr. Provincial said mass for her in the community chapel.

To give an idea of the first group of Jesuits who occupied the Newbury Street house when it was limited to three contiguous houses, this over-all summary is presented. In addition to the provincial, the socius, the coadjutor socius, province treasurer and mission procurator, the group included the minister, the archivist, the head of the mission band, the province buyer (a full time position for one year prior to this man's appointment as province treasurer), a writer, a house treasurer, 2 members of the mission band, 8 students and 4 coadjutor brothers, including the secretary of the Jesuit Seminary Guild. In these early days the fathers' recreation room was on the second floor front. The brothers' recreation room was in the parlor adjoining the porter's office; a reading room and library were located on the fourth floor. There were also several house chapels. Before the first year concluded, death struck suddenly. Fr. Thomas A. M. Shanahan, who had been one of the pioneer missionaries to the Philippines and had only returned in 1938 due to poor health, died while vesting for mass in the third floor chapel on May 1, 1939. Fr. Ernest B. Foley anointed him. This Fr. Shanahan who spent so short a time within the New England Province is often confused in people's minds with Fr. Thomas J. Shanahan, a Waterbury native, who also spent many years in the Philippine Islands, in addition to teaching at Fairfield and Holy Cross. Those who in relaying the history of St. Andrew's House have the temerity to say that a Fr. Shanahan, formerly a Philippine missionary, died there toward the end of the first year, and was one of the first group buried at Weston within a month of the opening of its cemetery, are laughed to scorn. May this plain statement of the fact strengthen the cause of historical truth and give the lie to many who know so many things that are not so.

A death at the end of 1939 led to the joining of D house to the other parts of Bobola House. Miss Rogers died on December 31, 1939 and her funeral mass was at St. Cecelia's on January 2, 1940. She was buried in Calvary Cemetery in Waltham. Each priest was instructed to offer a mass for the repose of her soul. It was only on April 4, 1940 that the wall between C and D houses on the first floor was cut through allowing total passage through all houses on the first floor. As in B and C houses, the second and third floor of D house had two large and two small rooms. The first floor of each had one large room to the front but there was variation in the rooms to the back. In time the recreation room was moved to D house first floor which with time was much opened up.

If this search for a separate provincial residence was finally realized, the curia proper was soon to have itself surrounded with more and more province auxiliary establishments and their increasing Jesuit staffs. These groups and the initial student group were soon to crowd the house with residents and offices. Hence a new move had to be contemplated. This leads to the later story of the acquisition of Loyola House at 297 Commonwealth Avenue as a place for basic curia members and their office space, a space usually located in their living quarters. Even Loyola House was not the final story. There is now 393 Commonwealth Avenue with its business offices and staffs and the use of Campbell House at 418 Beacon Street for personal residence of much of the provincial curia. Is the task, herein accounted, one similar to that of Sisyphus? Who can say?



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