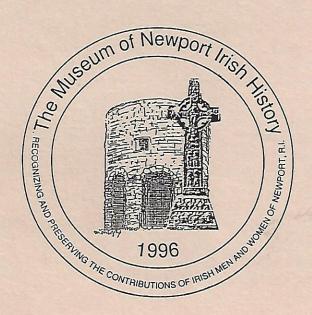# PROGRAM
for the
DEDICATION AND BLESSING
of the
RESTORATION WORK
at the
ST. JOSEPH/"BARNEY STREET" CEMETERY

3 P.M. SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 1999

The Museum of Newport Irish History

RECOGNIZING AND PRESERVING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IRISH MEN AND WOMEN OF NEWPORT, R.I.

1996

THE ST. JOSEPH/BARNEY STREET CEMETERY

The St. Joseph Cemetery, known locally as the "Barney Street" Cemetery, was established sometime after 1828, as an adjunct to the St. Joseph Church, founded by the Diocese of Boston. The original property was purchased from Eleazer Trevett for $1,100.

Following the purchase of the property and its small schoolhouse on Barney Street, it became the site of the first permanent Catholic Church in Rhode Island. It was dedicated in 1828. The former schoolhouse was used by Reverends Robert Woodley, Constantine Lee, James O'Reilly, Rev. John Corry, itinerant pastor, for Sunday School and Services. The tract was enlarged in 1829 and in 1830 by the purchase of two adjacent lots making the total landscape approximately 150 by 150 feet. In time Rev. John Corry deemed the facility inadequate and began a new church on the corner of Mt. Vernon Street in 1835. The new wooden, "gothic" structure was dedicated in 1837. Rev. James Fitton was the pastor. This structure was dismantled in 1858.

In 1847, Father James Fitton purchased land on Spring Street between Levin and William Street which would become the site of the new church which would be called, "The Church of the Holy Name of Mary, Our Lady of the Isles." St. Mary's, then is the oldest parish in the State of Rhode Island, founded in 1828. A large portion of the money for this purchase was provided by Mrs. Goodby Harper of Baltimore, daughter of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Property was also purchased on Warner Street to provide for a new Catholic Cemetery, called St. Mary's Cemetery. The church building on Barney Street was sold and moved to Sherman Street, where it still stands.

The new church was dedicated on July 25, 1852 by Bishop O'Reilly. Old St. Joseph's had lost its identity and was dissolved. It later resurfaced as an individual parish, moving two more times, ending up at its present location on Broadway.

3/99

PROGRAM

★ Prelude: *Music by Bagpiper John Sullivan*

★ Welcome and introduction of honored guests:
   Vincent Arnold, President, The Museum of
   Newport Irish History

★ Welcome from the City of Newport:
   David S. Gordon, Mayor, the City of Newport

★ Remarks:
   Dan Snydacker, Executive Director,
   The Newport Historical Society

★ Remarks and Blessing:
   The Most Reverend Robert E. Mulvee, DD
   Bishop of Providence

★ Adjourn

★ Recessional Music: *John Sullivan*

HONOR GUARD: The Newport Artillery Company

**You are invited to join our reception following the
ceremony at the LaForge casino Restaurant,
Bellevue Avenue (suggested donation, $10.)**

The Museum of Newport Irish History
MNIH