

Feb. 20, 2001

Old St. Joseph Church was much smaller than article said

To the Editor:

The Daily News article dated Feb. 10-11 by Wendy Fontaine, under the headline "Historic discovery?", is essentially correct and well done. However, there is one error that should be corrected. This concerns the capacity of the 1837 St. Joseph Church on Mt. Vernon/Barney streets. The article quotes me as saying that it could hold several thousand people. There obviously was something lost in the translation, since, based on several written accounts and a map of 1850 showing the building, it may have held several hundred, not thou-

sands. As a comparison, the present St. Mary Church on Spring Street has a capacity of about 700. Surely, even this beautiful building would not fit at the site.

At any rate, the Museum of Newport Irish History appreciates the article. Anyone interested in assisting us or interested in more information about our various activities can contact us at P.O. Box 1378, Newport RI 02840.

Vincent Arnold
president

The Museum of Newport Irish History