

Brief Biography of our Parish Founder

Father Anthony Rossi

He was born in 1836 in the Canton of Tessin in Switzerland. In 1851 his eldest brother who had previously made his home in New Orleans, being on a visit to his birth place brought back with him to this country, the young Anthony, then a boy of 15. His priestly vocation had already begun to manifest itself. Indeed missionary interest influenced his coming to the United States. He entered the college of the Lazarists Fathers at Cape Gerardeau, Missouri. After a successful course in the classics, philosophy and theology, Anthony was ordained a priest by Bishop Timon of Buffalo, New York in 1860.

A brief but trying missionary service in Missouri having been fulfilled, he was appointed a professor at St. Mary's College, commonly called the Barreus, near Buffalo, New York. In 1863 he withdrew from St. Mary's College and was incardinated in the Diocese of Boston. He was Associate Pastor in East Cambridge for a short while.

He was appointed pastor in Palmer, Massachusetts and worked among the Catholics in the Berkshire countryside. In 1865, he was appointed pastor at St. George in the Saxonville section of Framingham. In 1881, he was named pastor of St. Columbkille in Brighton. He was pastor here for the last 22 years of his life. It was in 1894 that he began the building of St. Anthony Church in Allston/Brighton.