



54th Annual Parade

March 20, 2005



2005 Parade President
Mark A. Pijar

Welcome to the 54th Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. My family - Debbie, John, and I - march with pride as we greet all of you who have joined us to celebrate Holyoke's annual Parade. In the Spirit of the Irish and the Wearing of the Green, our Parade welcomes everyone, of every ethnic heritage, to celebrate all things Irish. The Parade brings together friends and family and allows Holyoke to display what is best in all of us.

The 300+ men & women of the St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke and members of parade committees in the surrounding communities have worked tirelessly so everyone can enjoy the Road Race, Parade and related activities each year. I thank all members and their families for the countless hours and sacrifices made in order to plan a successful and enjoyable weekend.

I would also like to thank the business community and sponsors for their cooperation and assistance. Without their help we truly could not complete our task. Many thanks to Mayor Michael J. Sullivan, the Holyoke Police and Fire Departments, the Dept. of Public Works and all of the city officials for the support that they have given us. Their spirit reflects the civic pride we share in Holyoke.

Special thanks for the support we receive from our clergy, including Fr. Francis X. Sullivan, our parade chaplain and Bishop Emeritus Joseph F. Maguire. Both are family to us all and make our meetings and our events extra meaningful. As our new Bishop, The Most Reverend Timothy Anthony McDonnell, begins his service to our Diocese (and experiences his first parade), we look forward to his friendship, participation and spiritual leadership. We welcome him to our community.

Also, let us remember those who have come before us. The sacrifices they made, the hard work and oppression they endured and the many successes they achieved have helped define who we are today.

Serving as President has been an honor. The people of this committee are a joy to work with and our community is extremely supportive of what we do. Please enjoy the greatest St. Patrick's Parade, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade.



2005 Grand Marshal
Russell J. McNiff, Sr.



2005 Rohan Award
Kathleen M. Lynch



2005 O'Connell Award
William E. Dinn



2005 Gullivan Award
Brian F. Moriarty



2005 John F. Kennedy Award
Tom O'Brien



2005 Ambassador's Award
Vincent G. Dowling



2005 Citizenship Award
Michael J. Burke



2005 Grand Colleen
Carolyn Patricia McLain