

Department of Communication
Stonehill College
320 Washington St
Easton, MA 02357
Tel. (508)-565-1117



Father Ernest Bartell, C.S.C., was Stonehill College's sixth president. During his remarkable tenure as president (1971-1977), Fr. Bartell increased the college's endowment tenfold, operated the college without a deficit, and oversaw the physical expansion and growth of the college in a number of different directions.

In this regard, he approved and broke ground for the construction of St. Mary's Chapel and Human Resource Center, built new residence halls, and expanded both the Hemingway Theatre and College Library. To ensure the academic growth and excellence of the college, Fr. Bartell approved the establishment of new majors, notably in finance and marketing, encouraged the founding of a co-operative educational program (SACHEM) with several other colleges in Southeastern Massachusetts, was active in introducing service organizations (both on and off campus) to assist the disadvantaged, initiated opportunities for students to study abroad, and confirmed the Army ROTC program for first and second year students, among other things.

In all these initiatives, Fr. Bartell sought to hold his purpose and resolve to a common end – to the spiritual, academic, and social welfare of all students, always preferring their intellectual well-being and growth to any narrower or less challenging endeavor. He also believed the relationship between students and faculty is long-lasting, not transitory, especially when faculty and staff take time to intellectually stimulate students to move forward in their pursuit of knowledge, anywhere on the globe. Finally, Stonehill College is not only indebted to Fr. Bartell for his extraordinary professional service here, but also to his apostolic witness and service, both on and off campus, for living genuinely and pastorally as a Holy Cross priest for the betterment of the broader global community of all men and women, irrespective of their color, race, religion, gender, or social background.

Fr. James Chichetto, C.S.C.
Professor of Communications
Stonehill College