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*The Parish Pastoral Council and Parishioners  
St. Jeremiah Parish  
41 Brook Street  
Framingham, MA 01701*

May 30, 2004

Most Reverend Sean P. O'Malley, OFM Cap.  
Archdiocese of Boston  
2121 Commonwealth Avenue  
Brighton, MA 02135

Dear Archbishop O'Malley,

On May 25, 2005, you informed our pastor, Rev. Ronald Calhoun, that "after careful consideration, and an extensive process and review," you have decided that St. Jeremiah Parish must close.

We are writing to you as members of the Parish Council of St. Jeremiah Church in Framingham and on behalf of our fellow parishioners. We, along with all members of our parish family, are dealing with the anger, hurt and shock of this decision. We understand that the process was tiered, starting with cluster groups and their recommendations, followed by review and comments by the local vicar, as well as the regional bishop. Reports went to the central committee for analysis and deliberation, with the process ultimately being turned over to you for review and consideration. After hearing thoughts from the Presbyteral Council about your conclusions, your decision was made to close St. Jeremiah Parish along with some 64 other churches in the archdiocese.

Our frustration with the decision centers around questions that we have about the final report submitted to the Archdiocese. That report has not been provided to either Fr. Calhoun or Deacon Bill Koffel. Knowing the quality of our faith life at St. Jeremiah, the vibrant faith community, and the financial support for both the parish and the archdiocese, we cannot help but question the rationale for closing our church.

We respectfully request a copy of any written report, memorandum or other document(s) submitted to the Archdiocese by the vicar and the regional bishop of our region reflecting any recommendation regarding why our parish should close. As a matter of due process, we should be permitted to examine their views concerning our closure to ensure that they meet the guidelines that you outlined for this process, to ensure that any recommendation accurately reflect the facts concerning our parish, and so that any misinformation can be addressed in our appeal.

If it is not possible to provide us with these reports and recommendations, we request that we receive a written explanation about why information reviewed that resulted in the decision to close St. Jeremiah Parish cannot be made available to us to help answer the question, "Why St. Jeremiah?"

Kindly respond to our request in writing on or before June 7, 2004.

Very truly yours,

The Parish Council and Parishioners  
of ST. JEREMIAH PARISH

cc: Ms. Kathleen Heck  
Special Assistant to the Moderator  
Of the Curia  
Archdiocese of Boston  
2121 Commonwealth Avenue  
Brighton, MA 02135-3193