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Parishioners diocese talking again

By **D. Craig MacCormack**/ Daily News Staff
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FRAMINGHAM -- Could St. Jeremiah's parish, which closed just more than a year ago, soon reopen?

It's certainly not a done deal by any means, but members of the church's appeals committee met last week with Bishop Walter Edyvean in anticipation of a session June 19 with Cardinal Sean O'Malley about the church's fate.

Both archdiocese officials and appeals committee members remain tight-lipped about the meetings.

Archdiocese spokesman Terry Donilon said yesterday "it would be inappropriate to comment on the potential outcome of any meetings the cardinal might have with any vigil site.

"He has exhibited a clear willingness to communicate and listen and that continues even now," said Donilon of O'Malley.

Mary Beth Carmody, co-chairwoman of the St. Jeremiah Appeals Committee, said the group's meeting with Edyvean last Wednesday was "open and positive." She didn't speculate on what the future holds for her parish.

St. Jeremiah's closed May 13, 2005. Parishioners started an around-the-clock vigil a week earlier. The church has held Sunday Masses, religious education classes and services for religious holidays since the summer.

"We're very hopeful (our meeting with O'Malley) will lead to the right place," said Carmody, who said only that the meeting with Edyvean and talks with O'Malley are centered on the church's fate.

Appeals committee members invited Edyvean to speak to worshippers at St. Jeremiah's but haven't heard whether he will do so.

Meanwhile, the church's advocate in Rome filed a brief to the apostolic signatura, the Vatican's equivalent of the Supreme Court, Wednesday in an ongoing effort to have O'Malley's order of suppression overturned.

On another legal front, St. Jeremiah's expects to have its day in court on its fight to have the church, the land on which it sits and its contents ruled as property of the parishioners next month.







The civil lawsuit, set to be heard in Middlesex Superior Court in Cambridge June 14 at 2 p.m., would mean the worshippers would have even more of a say about what happens to the building.

The appeals committee has organized a bus from the church parking lot to the courthouse. About 100 people were slated to attend the original hearing in March before the judge in the case called in sick, said Carmody.

She expects more support this time. For more information about the bus, call the church's vigil office at 508-405-1927 or log on to the committee's Web site, www.stjeremiah.org.

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