

After thefts, vigil group is on alert

By D. Craig MacCormack / Daily News Staff

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FRAMINGHAM -- After a weekend during which someone swiped a collection of wireless microphones and a man came into the church looking for a crucifix, St. Jeremiah parish vigil attendees are vowing to be more vigilant.

Jackie Lemmerhirt, co-chairwoman of the Appeal Committee, said yesterday the people occupying the church during the 27-day-old, around-the-clock vigil were a bit spooked by similar reports at St. Anselm's in Sudbury.

They plan to keep a closer eye on the church sacristy and the back door, through which those who participate in the vigil enter, she said.

"It's a safety issue," said Lemmerhirt, noting reports from St. Anselm's centered around an "agitated" man stopping by during their vigil.

Lemmerhirt did not say if St. Jeremiah vigil attendees called the police, and efforts to reach police spokesman Lt. Vincent Alfano yesterday were unsuccessful.

About 275 people have signed the guest book at St. Jeremiah, including Nancy Kelley from St. James Church in Natick, who stopped by yesterday to show her support for the group's effort.

"I know what you guys are going through," Kelley told Lemmerhirt during her visit yesterday afternoon.

Nightly rosary services continue at 7:30, said Lemmerhirt, with a Bible study offering set to debut June 15 at 8 p.m. Vigil attendees may also start a summer reading club, she said.






The Appeal Committee has created name tags to help frequent volunteers get to know people they might not have met. Members are also hoping vigil attendees will wear new buttons asking the Archdiocese of Boston to "Save St. Jeremiah and Christa's Bells."

The bells are dedicated to teacher-astronaut Christa McAuliffe, who grew up in the St. Jeremiah parish.

William Vatcher of WTT Computer Repair and Sales donated a desktop computer, which has been hooked to the Internet.

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