

## Locks changed at closed church

By D. Craig MacCormack / Daily News Staff

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**F**RAMINGHAM -- The real estate company in charge of the St. Jeremiah property changed the locks on church doors this week after concerns about several missing items led vigil attendees to send a letter to Archbishop Sean O'Malley.

The four-page letter by Appeal Committee Chairwoman Jackie Lemmerhirt, dated May 31, asks O'Malley to step in and get two wireless microphones, the church air-conditioning system and a piano returned to the church, where parishioners are holding an around-the-clock vigil.

While no action has been taken on the second request, Lemmerhirt was pleased when employees from Codman Real Estate came to St. Jeremiah Monday to change the locks, she said.

The church's main entrance remains open to visitors, said Appeal Committee co-Chairwoman Mary Beth Carmody. The side doors have been locked throughout the vigil and will remain so, she said, but now former parish employees cannot get in.

The handicapped accessible door at the left front of the church, can be opened when someone rings the bell, said Carmody.

"They responded to our concern," said Lemmerhirt. "We're glad they did."

In the letter, Lemmerhirt noted several staffers from St. Jeremiah's, including the former pastor, the Rev. Ronald Calhoun, live or work in the St. Jeremiah rectory because of a lack of space at St. George's.

Those with keys have, "on several occasions within the past two weeks...entered St. Jeremiah surreptitiously and have taken items of value and dedicated gifts from the church," according to the letter.

"Their continued surreptitious entries can only lead to events that can potentially harm both parties," wrote Lemmerhirt. "This is not wise and must be stopped immediately. It is, simply stated, not a Christian way to live."

Among the items removed from the church in recent weeks, said Lemmerhirt, are two or three gray metal file cabinets and the wireless microphones that were donated to St. Jeremiah for use at the church.

Efforts to reach the Rev. Frank O'Brien, pastor at St. George's Church, yesterday were unsuccessful. Calhoun, who now works at St. George's, does not speak to the press about issues tied to reconfiguration.

Archdiocese spokesman Terrence Donilon could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Lemmerhirt called O'Brien on May 28, and the pastor told her, "If someone has keys and needs things to do their job, they have a right to enter our church and take what they need -- without advising us," she wrote.

The changed locks should alleviate that situation, Lemmerhirt said yesterday, though the missing items have not been returned.

"One step at a time," she said.

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