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June 4, 2004

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

Dear Archbishop O'Malley,

Thank you for your commitment to guide us faithful Catholics through some tough times. As you know the church closings has rocked our community. I am soul searching and feel the pain this decision has endured. I am saddened to know that downsizing drove the decision to close many spiritual homes.

I am asking you to re-examine the closure of St. Jeremiah Parish in Framingham. The valuable resources this particular church offers our faithful community cannot be tossed aside.

The parishioners and staff have been feverishly updating the church to support the growth of our new and returning Catholics. The religious education program here is outstanding and is rapidly expanding to meet the needs of young families that are now coming back to Our Fathers home. I was called back to St. Jeremiah 10 years ago. I came home. I now see other young families walking "home". They are doing something right.

The building is the newest in Framingham and is in excellent condition. It is a practical choice to remain open because it meets our needs effectively, especially the ever growing elderly population with its efficient heat and recently installed air conditioning. The church is beautifully maintained, warm, inviting and cozy to welcome those returning and seeking a home. Also, the rectory is newer and large enough to support increased staff and housing to handle the volume of parishioners from surrounding communities.

This parish is not stagnant. It is blossoming. This parish has roots that are very well defined. We also take pride in being the parish of Christa McAuliffe's family.

Without a question, St. Jeremiah Parish is a more feasible choice to remain open in order to provide support for the future mission of the church in the Boston Archdiocese.

Thank you from my heart to yours for listening and actively re-examining the decision to close this parish. May God Bless you and give you proper guidance.

Very truly yours,  
Mary Ellen Brooks

