

May 24, 2004

Rev. Ronald Calhoun  
Saint Jeremiah Parish  
41 Brook Street  
Framingham, MA 01701

Dear Father Calhoun:

After careful consideration, and an extensive process and review, I am writing to inform you that I have decided that Saint Jeremiah Parish must close. In order to serve the needs of the people of the Archdiocese, and after having heard the counsel of laity and priests, it is clear that the mission of the Church in Boston can be best achieved by the reconfiguration of present parochial resources.

Having considered the needs of the Catholic population of Framingham, it is my belief that four parishes are sufficient to serve the needs of the faithful. Saint Jeremiah's relatively low sacramental index and its proximity to neighboring parishes have led me to conclude that the pastoral and spiritual needs of the People of God of Saint Jeremiah Parish can be appropriately served by the remaining parishes in Framingham.

The challenge of closing a parish is difficult, yet I ask for your continued dedication and leadership through this process. A workshop for the pastors and assigned priests of closing parishes has been scheduled for this Thursday, May 27th from 10:30am to 3:00pm at St. Julia parish Center, Weston. This meeting will provide us the opportunity to gather in prayer as brother priests, as well as to receive an overview of the support available to you personally, to your staff, and to your parish as you journey together through this difficult transition. At that meeting we will distribute the Closing Manual and introduce you to the teams from the chancery that will assist you in the closing process.

Please be assured of my gratitude and appreciation for your ministry as pastor. My decision reflects in no way on your pastoral care and leadership in the parish but comes from the necessity to fulfill the mission of the Church. I am very grateful as well to your staff and parishioners as you move forward to foster an environment that will effect a successful transition and truly answer God's call to "Rebuild My Church."

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

Sean P. O'Malley, OFM Cap.  
Archbishop of Boston