



VICAR GENERAL
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ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON
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June 7, 2004

Dear Parish Pastoral Council and Parishioners of St. Jeremiah Parish,

On behalf of Archbishop Seán O'Malley, I am writing in response to your letter dated May 30, 2004, which was in response to the Archbishop's letter of intent dated May 24, 2004, to close St. Jeremiah Parish in Framingham.

I wish to assure you Archbishop Seán has seen your letter and understands what you have asked for as he appreciates your desire to keep St. Jeremiah Parish open. I need to inform you, however, that Archbishop Seán intends to follow through with his intention to close St. Jeremiah Parish.

Archbishop Seán will soon be issuing a decree stating the closure of your parish. The reason for your parish closing will be expressed in the decree. Having said this, you should be aware that the reason Archbishop Seán has come to this determination is based only in part upon the statistics associated with St. Jeremiah Parish. It is important to note that the individual decisions need to be viewed in the context of the entire Archdiocese of Boston. Therefore, in certain areas of the Archdiocese it was determined that we could meet the Sacramental and Pastoral needs of the people with fewer resources. A decree is something that you can have recourse against. Please know that once your parish receives the decree you have ten useful days to have recourse against this decision.

Dealing with these matters it is important to note that the Archbishop has the right in Canon Law to suppress, alter, or merge a parish as long as he follows the required process. Thus, an act of recourse needs to address the process and specifically how it was not followed. Otherwise, your recourse may not be effective.

These are difficult times for you and your parish and indeed for the whole Archdiocese of Boston, but I wish to convey to you that Archbishop Seán has made these decisions after much consultation and in accord with Canon Law.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard G. Lennon
Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia