



ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE

2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135-3192

May 24, 2004

Rev. John Fitzpatrick
Saint Anselm Parish
100 Landham Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776-0916

Dear Father Fitzpatrick:

After careful consideration, and an extensive process and review, I am writing to inform you that I have decided that Saint Anselm 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 Sudbury, it is my belief that one parish is sufficient to serve the needs of the faithful. The small number of worshipers at Saint Anselm, and its relatively low sacramental index, as well its proximity to Our Lady of Fatima Parish, have led me to conclude that the pastoral and spiritual needs of the People of God can be appropriately served by the Our Lady of Fatima and other remaining parishes in the area. The deaf community presently at Saint Anselm, along with the other deaf communities throughout the Archdiocese of Boston, will be assisted in locating to a parish community.

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 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,

Archbishop of Boston