

*ST. ANSELM PARISH*

*100 LANDHAM ROAD*

*SUDBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01776*

June 24, 2004

Most Reverend Richard Lennon  
Vicar General  
Moderator of the Curia Archdiocese of Boston  
2121 Commonwealth Avenue  
Brighton, MA 0213 5

Dear Bishop Lennon:

I am writing in response to your letters of June 3 and 4, 2004 concerning the parish territory and closing date for St. Anselm Parish. At a parish-wide meeting on June 16, 2004 we discussed the issues raised in both of those letters.

As to the parish territory, a significant number present wanted to see the entire territory of St. Anselm parish received by St. George Parish in Framingham. Their principal concerns with respect to moving to another parish can be summarized as follows:

1. Our parishioners still do not understand why Archbishop Sean decided to close St. Anselm with many believing the process used in reconfiguration was flawed. They have written numerous letters to Archbishop Sean feeling that our pastoral situation would be much more manageable if Archbishop Sean or a representative would come and speak to parishes that are slated for closing. There has not been sufficient information provided to answer their many honest questions.
2. Many of our parishioners feel alienated from Our Lady of Fatima parish because of the manner in which the cluster process took place. This is reflected in the sentiment that some parishioners even asked to have our entire parish territory, including the Sudbury territory, assigned to St. George parish in Framingham.
3. In your letter of June 3, 2004, you speak of the goal of building a more unified church. Our parishioners are concerned that the actions of the Archdiocese will now divide what has been a very caring, close knit community.
4. Our parishioners have a deep concern for the deaf community that has become part of St. Anselm. By including the Deaf in our discussions, they now understand why the deaf would like to relocate to St. George along with many of our parishioners who have befriended them and become part of their lives; and they believe that the deaf should be supported in their choice of St. George.

Our pastoral team has been in discussion with the pastors of both St. George and Our Lady of Fatima Parishes. With them, we believe that the best long term interests of the community would be served by assigning the Framingham territory of St. Anselm Parish to St. George and the Sudbury territory to Our Lady of Fatima: hence dividing our parish using the geographical boundary lines of the two towns.

As to the date of closing, a significant majority of those present at the meeting would like *to* see the closing date set for September 15, 2004 so as to allow a final celebration of the whole community after the Labor Day holiday. In my conversation with you the other day you expressed your willingness to accept their recommendation so I will be happy to relay that delayed date to our parishioners this coming weekend.

Please be assured that we continue to pray for you and Archbishop Sean and the many faithful Catholics who are losing their faith communities as the process of reconfiguration continues to unfold. The challenge is great but my personal hope is for the Personnel Board to assign me on temporary assignment to St. George on a part-time basis to help a substantial number of our parishioners who transition into the new community that will be formed there with parts of three parishes coming together. My other half of pastoral effort with the Deaf will continue as Fr. Medas and myself search out the best possible location for our combined communities which may very well lead us to further inclusion of our Deaf in this new parish arising at St. George from this reconfiguration process.

Sincerely,

Fr. John P. Fitzpatrick

Administrator