



CARDINAL'S OFFICE
2121 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135-3193

June 26, 2005

Reverend David O'Leary
Saint Anselm Church
100 Landham Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

Dear Father O'Leary:

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to serve as Rector for Saint Anselm Church and community. It is good to know that you wish to help the people at St. Anselm to deepen their faith and their participation in the life of the Church.

As you may be aware, the community at St. Anselm has asked for documentation of their status as a rectorate in the Archdiocese. You may also be aware that the parishioners of Saint Anselm Parish have taken hierarchical recourse against my decision to suppress the parish. This recourse now rests with the Apostolic Signatura and it is uncertain how long that process will take. Given that the parishioners of Saint Anselm do not wish to withdraw their petition for recourse, I cannot at this time make a permanent determination concerning the future of the community. Should the Signatura overturn the decision by the Congregation for the Clergy, I will have to reconsider whether or not Saint Anselm should remain a parish. If the decision of the Congregation for the Clergy is upheld, then the parish will be suppressed without the possibility of further recourse. It is necessary that the Signatura render its final decision before I declare a final resolution for the St. Anselm community. Moreover, once there is a decision from the Signatura, canon law requires that I consult with the Presbyteral Council before making a final decision relative to the permanent status of Saint Anselm.

At this time you can assure the faithful of Saint Anselm that it is my commitment to present the rectorate solution to the Presbyteral Council in the event that the Signatura upholds the decision by the Congregation for the Clergy regarding the parish's suppression. It will be made clear to the Presbyteral Council that I support the establishment of the rectorate on a permanent basis. It is my hope that your service as rector will benefit the Presbyteral Council at the time they might be consulted concerning the permanent establishment of the rectorate in that the Council will see that the rectorate has worked well for the faith community at St. Anselm.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ Sean P. O'Malley

Archbishop of Boston