



Brighton students' pets rescued after archdiocese lockdown

By Marie Szaniszlo

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Days after it was unceremoniously locked without food in Our Lady of the Presentation School away from its young caretakers, Pokey the butterfly was free yesterday, thanks to a vigilant parishioner.

On Wednesday, the Boston archdiocese closed the Brighton elementary school two days early to head off the kind of sit-in still going on at a half-dozen parishes the financially beleaguered archdiocese has also decided to close. But in doing so, the archdiocese unwittingly trapped the school's pet frog, six fish and Pokey, a butterfly with a broken wing.

After reading about the critters' plight, parishioner Richard Terras contacted the Animal Rescue League of Boston, which contacted the MSPCA, which contacted the archdiocese, which sent its canon lawyer, the Rev. Mark O'Connell, to oversee Saturday's rescue.

The MSPCA could not be reached for comment. Peter Borre, a member of the Council of Parishes, a group opposed to the closings, saw the removal of Pokey and the fish, although he could not confirm the frog had successfully been retrieved.

"And as a fan of Kermit the Frog," Borre said, stifling a chuckle, "I remain intensely concerned."

The school will re-open briefly tomorrow so students can retrieve belongings, including any remaining pets.

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