



This school plan just divine

By Boston Herald editorial staff
Wednesday, June 15, 2005

God does indeed work in mysterious ways. Just a couple of weeks ago a plan to preserve Our Lady of Presentation School as a school and community center was dead in the water. Officials of the Boston archdiocese had other plans, including using the building as a tribunal for hearings involving priests accused of sexual misconduct.

But that was before the public relations disaster created by church officials when they closed the school two days early, angering parents and traumatizing children who were counting on having their graduation ceremony at the school. Mayor Tom Menino saved the day on graduation, offering up Faneuil Hall and eventually church officials did allow youngsters back into the building to reclaim their own belongings and rescue some fish and a butterfly.

So Monday Archbishop Sean O'Malley stepped in to attempt to salvage something positive from the nightmare he helped create. After meeting with parents for more than 3 hours, the archbishop agreed to reopen talks with parents about the possible sale of the school.

The Presentation School Foundation offered to pay the church fair market value for the building and has a splendid plan for its reuse. And frankly we can't imagine why a private school in that location would threaten area parochial schools. Some plans are just so right they seem, well, divinely inspired. Surely the archbishop can see that.

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By Beverly Beckham

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