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June 13, 2005 Monday STATE EDITION**SECTION:** OPINION; Pg. A8**LENGTH:** 294 words**HEADLINE:** (EDITORIAL) Two graduations; Church gets one right, one wrong**BODY:**

GRADUATION Mass for Trinity High School in Manchester went off without a hitch last Wednesday despite a petition -- signed by nearly half the graduating class -- opposing the speaker, Manchester Bishop John McCormack. McCormack's bosses in Boston could learn from his handling of the tense situation.

Knowing that many students were upset that he would be the speaker, McCormack came to the school the week before graduation to meet with them. Students who attended the meeting got to tell the bishop to his face that they were angry with him for his handling of the child sex abuse scandal. Bishop McCormack has previously tried to avoid face-to-face encounters with his detractors, but this time he did the right thing. And so did the students who stood up for their faith by challenging a man they believed had shamed it.

Contrast that to the behavior of Boston Archdiocese officials, who canceled Thursday's and Friday's scheduled graduation ceremonies for students at Our **Lady of Presentation** elementary school. Hearing a rumor that parents would stage a sit-in to protest the school's scheduled shut down, the archdiocese closed the school two days before graduation and changed the locks.

Adding insult to injury, officials then lied about the reason for this cruel act. They said they did it for the children.

Parents held graduation ceremonies for pre-schoolers and kindergarteners in a park across from the school on Thursday. On Friday Boston Mayor Thomas Menino let students in grades one through six graduate in Faneuil Hall.

"To close the doors of a school that has meant so much to so many, and to do so without warning, is unconscionable," Menino said. Doing the unconscionable has become standard practice for the Boston Archdiocese.

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