

Statement from the Archdiocese of Boston about the OLP

Friday, January 21, 2005

The following is a statement from the Archdiocese of Boston on its plan to move its staff to the Our Lady of Presentation School Building in Brighton. This statement was released late in the afternoon on Tuesday.

The Archdiocese of Boston today announced that the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese, currently located at One Lake Street in Brighton, will next year move to Our Lady of the Presentation School, which is scheduled to close in June of 2005.

In June 2004, the archdiocese made arrangements to sell the Tribunal building at One Lake Street to Boston College in June of 2006, thus the need for a new location for the Tribunal. Archbishop O'Malley desired that the Tribunal be close to the chancery, centrally located in the archdiocese, and accessible by both automobile and public transportation. Our Lady of Presentation School fits all of these criteria.


The Metropolitan Tribunal of Boston is charged with the administration of justice, as a court of first instance and as an appellate court, for matters of the public good brought before the Church. Although most cases brought before the Tribunal involve questions of marital nullity, the court also acts as the competent forum for other issues, including penal matters.


Rev. Mark A. Mahoney, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar for the Archdiocese of Boston, expressed his appreciation for this announcement, saying, "I am grateful to Archbishop Sean in making provision that the important ministry of the Tribunal may continue in a central and accessible location and understanding the sensitive needs of those whom we serve as the ecclesiastical court of the archdiocese."


As announced in June 2004, Our Lady of Presentation School is scheduled to close at the conclusion of the 2004-2005 academic year. The decision to close Our Lady of Presentation School was made after thorough consideration of the future viability of the school in light of enrollment declines, rising operating costs and increasing deficits. Initially, the school was slated to close at the end of the 2003-2004 school year; however, the archbishop decided to extend the closing date to June 2005 in response to the parents' request for additional time to find suitable placements for their children. This closing extension was made possible by the generosity and commitment of Secretary of State William Galvin, who provided access to funding that could be applied to shortfalls in operating expenses for the current academic year.


Archdiocesan officials are working with Our Lady of Presentation School to assist with the transition process, including gathering information regarding the availability of space in seven neighboring Catholic schools and placing faculty and staff on a priority-hiring list to assist them in securing employment in other Catholic schools.

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
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