

## Letter: Kid says OLP School closing breaks heart

Friday, February 25, 2005

(Editor's Note: This is a copy of a letter to Archbishop O'Malley by Earl Smith, a 10-year-old altar server and fourth-grader at Our Lady of Presentation School.)

Dear Archbishop O'Malley,

I miss my church dearly. I had to give it up by force, which I didn't like because I like the freedom of choice, which was not given to anyone. I think you've made a mistake, you've broken my heart, I loved serving on the Presentation altar. I miss it dearly.

I looked at that church all the time and saw hope, joy and peace. Now I see sadness. I miss that feeling it was wonderful. But you're taking it away. You were given the freedom of choice, use it wisely. Remember you're breaking a kid's heart. Please put it back together.

I asked to serve with you, but you declined, and took our school, and church, but you also took hope, peace and joy, all for yourself. Greed is building up in your heart. I would like you to listen to God. You haven't been following the Commandments, or the Amendments.

I worship mostly in Presentation, I have been learning of God there my whole life. Catholic children and families are being thrown out for your business. I have been getting educated here for years and I love it. The teaching is wonderful and every child is treated fairly, are is loved, cherished and treated like their mom's love. I wrote stories of happiness, but now sadness. School newspapers are becoming sad. Just like me.

I looked at Mary and saw hope, but now sadness. This is a nonfictional story that has to stop immediately. My heart is in Presentation. This is a sad school year for everyone; you can change it.

Sincerely,

Earl Smith

Brighton

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