

## Letter: OLP: Why the struggle continues

Friday, June 3, 2005

To the editor:

It grieves me, that as a former student of Our Lady of the Presentation School, that I and many others in the Allston-Brighton community will be witnessing the closing of this beloved school's doors on June 10.

The Our Lady of the Presentation School and Church were built by and for the parishioners for the sole purpose of creating a legacy for future generations. These facilities were built with their donation, their love, their religious and community spirit, and their commitment to empower children, spiritually and educationally, through their charitable example and the teachings at that school.

Each day I traveled from Newton, eager to arrive at the Our Lady of the Presentation School. This is a school where the "no child left behind" policy was initiated the day that the school first opened its doors. Attending school in the 1950s was much different than it is today - there were no special education classes or bilingual help, yet none of my classmates, non-English speaking or otherwise, ever failed a subject that was taught. The school's commitment to education, and their students, ensured each student's success. The Our Lady of the Presentation School created an environment of more than just an educational facility; it encompassed a commitment to community, which in turn created an extended family.

I see all churches and schools as community organizations. The Catholic Church, now more than ever, should be setting a leadership example through compassion, not a power struggle. One of the biggest problems that the Catholic Church is facing in the United States is low membership. Yet, as an organization, you fail to recognize that you are solely responsible for this predicament. Your all and mighty, powerful Oz mentality pushes people of all faiths away from the Catholic Church on a daily basis.

Why would anyone want to give their love, loyalty and finances to a church that does not reciprocate?

You do not need this particular building. You can establish your offices anywhere. In the Allston-Brighton area, public transportation is everywhere. Any building would suit your needs. You do not need an office space the size of the Our Lady of the Presentation School to conduct your business, and you would be wasting very precious space. You are choosing to disrupt a community and the needs of that community over the issue of square footage that could be located elsewhere.

Are your offices more important than the future of our children and our community? Where is the compassion? Where is the common sense? And what are you teaching our children - the future generation of Catholics - by your example? Are you a church that is showing them that you care about them, their future and the community in general? Are you setting a good Christian leadership example, or are you making the very clear statement of do as I say - not as I do?

Low membership in the Catholic Church is due to a lack of respect for its parishioners. We are a voice that is never heard! No one wants to follow a tyrant or continue to stand by those who treat them badly. Our children were the victims then, and our children are the victims now. Catholics everywhere are paying for a crime that we didn't commit.

The Archdiocese of Boston has been given an extremely financially fair proposal for the purchase of the Our Lady of the Presentation School for the sole purpose of establishing a multiservice community center that will enhance and benefit the entire Allston-Brighton community. It will provide much-needed services and space for programs that are presently unaffordable and unavailable to many due to lack of funding and space. Through partnerships and the use of the Our Lady of the Presentation School's space, continuation

### Herald Interactive Tools



[Recent articles](#)



[E-mail article to a friend](#)



[View graphic version](#)



[Search site](#)



[Sign up for home delivery](#)

and creation of education programs can become a reality.

I am again, as I have in the past, urging the archdiocese as a community organization in a Christian leadership role to please set a good Christian example by making the proper and honorable decision of accepting the Presentation School Foundation's offer for the purchase of the Our Lady of the Presentation School. Please honor your vow that the reuse of church-owned properties would be guided by proposals that were consistent with the social mission of the Roman Catholic Church, and that responded to the financial needs of an archdiocese in crisis.






Please be honest. Please be honorable. Please be Christian. Create a spirit of unity for the good of all, and for the furtherance of the mission of Christ. The parishioners are the heart, soul and spirit of every congregation. Please do not disregard our request. Please do not turn us away.

We will not just go away! We will continue our fight to preserve the Our Lady of the Presentation building as our school.

Joan Pasquale

Brighton

### Recent articles

-  [Gustman: Gets over your blues, maroon does not mean gloom: seven plants for early and middle spring](#)
-  [Church pushes A-B too far on OLP closing](#)
-  [Letter: OLP student asks John Paul II for divine help for school](#)
-  [Gets over your blues, maroon does not mean gloom: seven plants for early and middle spring](#)
-  [Lodge: Remembering when a lion attacked Brighton](#)

### Search the site





advertisement ▼

[ [contact us](#) ] :: [ [print advertising](#) ] :: [ [online advertising](#) ] :: [ [Browser Upgrade](#) ] :: [ [Jobs](#) ] :: [Click here for home delivery](#) or call 1.800.982.4023

© Copyright of CNC and [Herald Interactive Advertising Systems, Inc.](#)

No portion of townonline.com or its content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission. [Privacy Commitment](#)