



November 30, 2004 - Archbishop Seán P. O'Malley Establishes Committee to Oversee Reconfiguration Funds

(Boston, Massachusetts) November 30, 2004...The Archbishop of Boston today announced the establishment of a seven-member Parish Reconfiguration Fund Oversight Committee to be chaired by David Castaldi. This committee's role includes conducting an independent review of the financial aspects of reconfiguration including monitoring the receipt and spending of funds from closed parishes, including the sale of parish property, and making recommendations regarding the integrity used in this process. Joining Mr. Castaldi on the committee are Maureen Corcoran, Nan-Marie Jaeger, Kathleen Rabe, Norman Sabbey and Timothy Schiavoni. The final member will be appointed from the archdiocesan Finance Council and will be chosen from those soon to be named to work most closely on the Archdiocesan Strategic planning effort. Three of the six named committee members are from parishes being closed in the reconfiguration process.

"Addressing the challenges of this Archdiocese requires the active involvement of many who love the Church and are willing to share their time, energy and expertise," said Archbishop Seán P. O'Malley. "I am very grateful to the members of this new committee who have agreed to assist the Archdiocese of Boston staff by applying their professional and financial expertise in the area of Reconfiguration Fund Oversight and reporting."

The committee held its third monthly meeting last week and will report, at its discretion in the Pilot. The committee's reports along side will appear along with the Chancellor monthly report on the financial aspects of Reconfiguration. This advisory committee is the third committee organized by Archbishop O'Malley in recent months to assist him with Reconfiguration activity in the Archdiocese. In October, the Archbishop formed an external Reconfiguration Review Committee (chaired by Sr. Janet Eisner, SND, President of Emmanuel College, and Peter Meade, Executive Vice President of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and Chairman of the Board of Catholic Charities in Boston) to review the reconfiguration process underway in the Archdiocese of Boston and make recommendations that will help guide the Archdioceses' efforts to serve the needs of the Catholic community going forward. Recently, the Archbishop also announced the establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee to assist with the development of a strategic financial plan.

"All of us on the committee are pleased to help our Church with this important task and are committed to ensuring transparency in the handling of the assets of closed parishes," said Mr. Castaldi. "We appreciate that our Archbishop recognizes the importance of obtaining independent review and advice from lay Catholics and hope that this serves as a model for our Church in the future..",

The reconfiguration of parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston began in January of 2004, when there were 357 parishes divided into five regions. Since that time, 47 parishes have closed and other parish communities have welcomed those parishioners. When reconfiguration is completed, it is estimated that 82 parishes and 66 churches will have been closed, eight new parishes will have been created and eight churches will remain open as worship sites. This activity will result in 283 parishes serving the cities and towns that comprise the Archdiocese of Boston.

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