



Rebuilding neighborhoods one block at a time

March 7, 2007

His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan
Archbishop of New York
1011 First Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Your Eminence:

We write on behalf of Hope Community regarding the archdiocese's decision to close Our Lady Queen of Angels church in East Harlem. We regret the way in which the parishioners - our friends and neighbors - have been treated by the process chosen to implement the closure. We urge you to establish a meaningful dialogue with the members of the church.

Hope Community is a neighborhood-based organization that has provided high-quality affordable housing and other services to East Harlem for almost forty years. We strongly support other groups in the neighborhood, like the parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Angels, that sustain the traditions and practices that make our neighborhood a living community. The casual destruction of these groups weakens the social fabric that makes East Harlem a village and a home within New York City.

While we understand that you no doubt have reasons for believing that Our Lady Queen of Angels should be closed, we also know that the parishioners have compelling arguments for leaving it open. Again, we call upon you to listen to their statements and make every effort to address their needs and concerns.

Sincerely,

Roger Caban
Chair of the Board

Robin LeBaron
Acting Executive Director

cc: Carmen Villegas and the parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Angels
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito