

**Our Lady Queen of Angels Church
232 East 113th Street
New York, NY 10029**

Dear Parishioners:

All of us at Our Lady Queen of Angels are deeply saddened by the decision of the Archdiocese to close our parish. This is a very painful time not only for the parishioners, but also for us Capuchin Friars who have served here for 120 years. It should be noted that this decision was arrived at after more than two years of continuous review and wide consultation by those who directed the realignment program. It was not taken without concern for the spiritual care of the parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Angels.

As Roman Catholics we are united in the Church under our Bishop to whom we give respect and allegiance. Without the support of the Archbishop of New York this parish would have closed years ago. The parish school continues to remain open only through the generosity of the Archbishop.

During the meeting with some of our parishioners, Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, Vicar General, and his staff, we were asked if a form of alternative Catholic use for our parish with Sunday Mass at the Church would be acceptable. Our parishioners gave a favorable response to this possibility. It would be a new beginning for Our Lady Queen of Angels and provide us with continued use of our Church. The demonstrations inside of our Church, and the continued protests outside the Church have resulted in the decision of the Archdiocese to put these plans on hold. This is an unfortunate consequence of the regrettable actions of a few misguided parishioners. Hopefully, the situation will change and future plans for Our Lady Queen of Angels can move forward.

The nearby parishes eagerly await you. The pastors and staffs at Saint Ann's, Saint Cecilia's, Our Lady of Mount Carmel's, and Saint Paul's will gladly welcome you into those communities where you will experience the same community of faith that makes us Catholics. I know you will bring to those parishes the great spirit of cooperation and love for Christ and His Church that has been the hallmark of the parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Angels for generations.

The Capuchin Friars have served at Our Lady Queen of Angels for 120 years. Whether at the pulpit, the confessional, or in the classroom the friars served here with deep joy and love. Friendships have been formed over the years and they will continue for years to come. On behalf of all the friars, I wish to offer our thanks for this opportunity to serve you in this parish for 120 years. It has been a privilege and a blessing to do so for many of us. Please keep the friars and myself in your prayers, and know that we will do the same for you.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Gerard Mulvey OFM, Cap

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Pastor