

The Families of Our Lady Queen of Angels
c/o 36-09 Main Street, Suite 3D
Flushing, NY 11354

March 6, 2007

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

Re: Church of Our Lady Queen of Angels

Your Eminence:

On January 28, 2007, at all the masses, the pastor, Rev. Gerard Mulvey, announced that Our Lady Queen of Angels would be closed, effective March 1, 2007. An announcement was stated in the parish bulletin and an undated letter signed by you was also distributed. We understand this to be an attempt by the Archdiocese to deliver a notice of a decree of suppression to the parishioners. If this was in fact an attempt to deliver said notice, the parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Angels respectfully request that the decree of suppression be revoked, pursuant to the Code of Canon Law. We contacted Mr. José M. Grajales, a civil attorney to assist us, but you indicated in a letter of February 12, 2007 that he did not have canonical standing to make such a request. We therefore make this request ourselves.

Among the reasons we believe that our parish should remain open are the emerging spiritual needs of the sizable immigrant community served by our parish. We are sure that you are aware of The Holy See's instruction *Erga Migrantes caritas Christi*, of May 3, 2004, where in the first article it is stated: "To the right which the faithful have to receive the help arising from the spiritual wealth of the Church ... corresponds the duty of the pastors to provide such help, in particular to migrants, in view of their particular conditions of life"; and in article 16, "The diocesan or eparchial Bishop should show himself especially solicitous in favor of the migrant faithful."

We believe that the census information used by the archdiocese and shared with us on May 9, 2006 was flawed and out of date. Information found in various governmental sources indicates that there is a large influx of immigrants to the area served by our parish; most from Catholic countries. Further, we believe that you have overlooked the fact that many of our parishioners are elderly, live in close proximity to the church, and are unable to move any great distance beyond their immediate neighborhood. Another important fact is that our church is the only one, out of nine Catholic churches in East Harlem, that is handicapped-accessible.

Moreover, we respectfully request a copy of the decree of suppression, consistent with Canon 51. We also request a statement of reason(s) as to why the Church of Our Lady Queen of Angels was selected. Finally, we request that the decree directing the closing of the parish be stayed until all appropriate ecclesiastical appeals are exhausted.

We look forward to communicating with archdiocesan representatives on this matter.

May the Perfect Judge guide our every action and may His will be always done.

Sincerely yours,

<u>CARMEN M. VILLEGAS</u>	<u>Carmen M. Villegas</u>
<u>GLADYS RIVERA</u>	<u>Gladys Rivera</u>
<u>CARMEN FASCIO</u>	<u>Carmen Fascio</u>
<u>MARGARITA BARADA</u>	<u>Margarita Barada</u>
<u>CATALINA FASCIO</u>	<u>Catalina Fascio</u>
<u>Milagros Gonzalez</u>	<u>Milagros Gonzalez</u>
<u>JUANITA DUTIZ</u>	<u>Juanita Dutiz</u>
<u>Norma Flores</u>	<u>Norma Flores</u>
<u>Patricia Rivera</u>	<u>Patricia Rivera</u>
<u>AMBALUCIANO</u>	<u>Ambaluciano</u>
<u>Gloria Lopez</u>	<u>Gloria Lopez</u>
<u>ROSA LOPEZ</u>	<u>Rosa Lopez</u>

C - His Excellency Pietro Sambì
Apostolic Nuncio to the United States
Embassy of the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See
3339 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

His Excellency Dennis J. Sullivan
Vicar General
Archdiocese of New York