

WHY WE'RE STILL HERE?

**Accountability and transparency is still needed.
The shuttering of vibrant parishes needs to cease.
Whose church will be next?**

2004 Reconfiguration criteria and a fact check:

- St. Frances parish makeup consisted of 3,000 registered families.
- St. Frances church was, and still remains, in pristine condition and structurally sound. The church, built and paid for by the parishioners, was dedicated in 1961, being one of the younger churches with the Archdiocese of Boston.
- St. Frances coffers were full with over six figures (*no debt*) and the parish was so fiscally secure that it had built a sister church and school in India.
- The noted priest shortage was not applicable at St. Frances. The church operated frequently with visiting and retired priests (a nice way to supplement dwindling pensions).
- Shifting demographics from the urban areas to the suburbs. Scituate is a booming community on the south shore with explosive growth, a population of 20,080, a school enrollment that has increased 19.79% since 1993 and has the second highest population of Irish Catholics in the state of Massachusetts thus affectionately known as the Irish Rivera.
- St. Frances resides on 30.3 acres of prime coastal real estate. Is the true “value” of the parish of St. Frances the property or the faithful parishioners?

The vigiling and appealing churches within the Archdiocese of Boston are living proof that the parishioners will no longer stand for abuse whether it is physical, spiritual or financial. They have drawn a line in the sand saying it stops here and change must happen to protect the faithful.

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