



ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE
2121 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135-3193

March 14, 2006

Mr. Thomas A. Shields
Chairman, Alpha New England
122 Hart Street
Beverly Farms, MA 01915

Dear Mr. Shields,

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for providing me a better understanding of the Alpha program, in the course of our recent meeting, and for your invitation to participate in the Catholic Alpha Conference to be held at St. Michael's Parish in North Andover on April 21 and 22. Absent any unforeseen circumstances that might arise prior to the Conference, I will look forward to joining you on the morning of Friday, April 21 at 9:00 AM to offer a welcome to all gathered for the Conference. Rev. Robert Kickham from my office will be in contact with you as to the particular plan for that day.

Thank you also, Tom, for your furthering the work of ecumenism and evangelization, our Archdiocese and the wider Church have a great need for renewal of the faith through prayer and outreach to our other Christian brethren. Many of our Catholic parishioners have benefited from the Alpha program by way of its building on their initial interest in the Church, as a pre-catechumenate experience, or for others, a renewal of their desire to more deeply understand and live their Catholic faith. Life-long faith formation is a priority for our religious education programs and I am grateful for the efforts of those who seek to assist with this important work. Should pastors of our parishes wish to utilize the Alpha program as part of their religious education curriculum they can do so with my approval.

For additional information concerning how Alpha might be incorporated with existing Archdiocesan offerings, could I ask you to please be in contact with Sr. Clare Bertero, OSF, Cabinet Secretary for Education? Sister Clare can be reached at: 617-779-3625 and would be happy to provide any further information that might be helpful.

Asking God's blessings upon you and all whom you hold dear, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Sean P. O'Malley in black ink.
Archbishop of Boston

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