

DECREE

Having received the recommendation of the Episcopal Vicar for Windsor and those charged with the study of the reorganization of parishes in that region, and having consulted with the Council of Priests of the Diocese of London on March 6, 2012, in accordance with canon 1222, §2, I, Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B., Bishop of London, do hereby decree that Blessed Sacrament Church in the city of Windsor in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *Blessed Sacrament Church*) be canonically closed and no longer used for divine worship effective June 30, 2012.

The reasons for this action are:

- Blessed Sacrament Parish in the city of Windsor in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *Blessed Sacrament Parish*) is to be canonically suppressed on June 30, 2012 and its territory amalgamated into Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in the city of Windsor in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *Our Lady of the Assumption Parish*), and there is no need for another non-parochial church in the territory of this parish; indeed for Our Lady of the Assumption Parish the retention of Blessed Sacrament Church would result in a second non-parochial church or third church building within the boundaries of that one parish, which would be superfluous given the present size of that parish's population. The maintenance of Blessed Sacrament Church would only result in the under-utilization of all the church buildings in the western region of the city of Windsor and contribute to an inefficient use of limited financial resources within the Catholic parochial communities directly concerned.

- Blessed Sacrament Church is structurally a pre-fabricated building intended to serve as an interim facility for a limited number of years until a

more permanent church building might be constructed. Its expected lifespan or structural viability was generally understood to be twenty-five years. The present Blessed Sacrament Church has exceeded that expectation by twice the number of years it was constructed to last. It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that significant structural repairs on the building envelope of this church building can be anticipated in the foreseeable future. Indeed, in 2002, emergency structural repairs were carried out on the roof system and in the attic area. At that time, tie-rods were installed to stabilize the walls. It was hoped that this work would add additional years to the life of a building already beyond its projected lifespan.

- At present, Blessed Sacrament Church requires repairs to the roof, its exterior cladding, its windows, and its mechanical system has exceeded its age limit. These repairs are to be anticipated in a building of this type and age. Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, the parish which will absorb the territory of Blessed Sacrament Parish, cannot undertake the repair and maintenance of this church building since it is already engaged in seeking funds to finance a series of extensive structural repairs to its own parochial church. In an area of the city where there is great economic hardship and notable social needs, and where extensive costs have been or are being incurred to maintain church buildings, it would be irresponsible to suggest taking on further debt to repair a facility that is not needed.

I give leave to those within the diocesan curia charged with the administration of temporal matters to dispose of Blessed Sacrament Church and the property on which it is situated, taking care to observe faithfully the pertinent civil laws in this regard and the provisions of the *Code of Canon Law* concerning the alienation of temporal goods.

In conformity to canon 121, I further decree that the proceeds from the sale of Blessed Sacrament Church and the land on which it is situated obtains and belongs to the canonically established parish into which Blessed Sacrament Parish is to be amalgamated, namely, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, the wishes of the founders and benefactors having been duly regarded and taken into consideration.

I direct this decree be published in Blessed Sacrament Parish and Our Lady of the Assumption Parish and by a suitable means throughout the Diocese of

London, with the understanding that any who wish to make recourse against it, in accordance with canon 1734, §1-2, must do so in writing within ten canonical days from the time this decree was lawfully notified.

Given at London in the province of Ontario this fifth day of June in the year two thousand and twelve.

Bishop of London

Chancellor