

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 515, §2, I, Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B., Bishop of London, do hereby decree that Blessed Sacrament Parish in the city of Windsor in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *Blessed Sacrament Parish*) canonically established in 1937, be canonically suppressed effective June 30, 2012. I further decree that the territorial boundaries of Blessed Sacrament Parish be absorbed and amalgamated into those of 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*).

The reasons for this action are:

- Established in 1937 to serve the poor at the western end of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Blessed Sacrament Parish has in recent years experienced a notable and evident decline. For example, according to the available annual Parish Profiles, there have been no baptisms in the parish since 2006; the attendance at the Sunday Masses has consistently decreased since 2008, with a ten percent (10%) decrease between 2010 and 2011; and the number of registered families in the parish has fallen from seven hundred in 2006 to five hundred and fifty in 2009, the last year for which a Parish Profile was completed and submitted to the Diocese of London.
- The decline in the parish population has inevitably led to the decline in its operating revenue, with the effect that the financial resources are not available to maintain the expected range of ministry and pastoral outreach; indeed, there are insufficient revenues to maintain adequately the present church building and rectory.
- The canonical suppression of the parish will result in the reduction in the

number of priests needed to provide for this area of the city of Windsor by one. With two priests assigned to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, the parish into which Blessed Sacrament Parish will be absorbed, the pastoral needs of the Catholic population in this part of the city will be provided for readily.

In conformity to the norms set out in canon 121, I also decree that the patrimonial goods and rights of Blessed Sacrament Parish, along with its liabilities, will from the date of its suppression obtain and belong to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, with every care to be taken that in what concerns the arrangements for the goods and the discharge of obligations, the wishes of founders and benefactors and any acquired rights are fully safeguarded.

Furthermore, in order to provide easier access to the faithful, I decree that the sacrament records of Blessed Sacrament Parish be transferred to and maintained by Our Lady of the Assumption Parish.

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