

DECREE

Having received the recommendation of the Episcopal Vicar for Huron-Perth and the reports of those within the diocesan curia charged with the study of the reorganization of parishes, and having consulted with the Council of Priests of the Diocese of London on September 12, 2012, in accordance with canon 1222, §2, I, Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B., Bishop of London, do hereby decree that St. Joseph Church in the hamlet of Kingsbridge in the county of Huron in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Joseph Church*) be canonically closed and no longer used for divine worship effective October 21, 2012.

The reasons for this action are:

- A comprehensive Building Condition Report completed in mid 2012 by a reputable and qualified architectural firm and consulting engineers reveals the need for structural repairs to St. Joseph Church which would exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in total. Of greater concern is the determination in this report that six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) worth of these overall repairs are required immediately in order to conform to civil building codes and to ensure that the church building is safe for public use.
- The community utilizing St. Joseph Church is small, numbering less than one hundred (100) families. Furthermore, according to available financial records, there are only sixty-five (65) to seventy (70) regular Sunday Offertory Envelope users. Consequently the immediate financial demand on each of these to underwrite the needed repairs to satisfy safety concerns is both high and unrealistic, that is, roughly nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) per envelope user. Even if such repairs were carried out, this is less than half of what must be done in the next ten years to maintain the building, and this in an area of limited economic prospects with no projections for significant population growth. Nor are there other sources of funding to support the restoration of St. Joseph Church available from any public or private entity.
- The closure of St. Joseph Church will not leave those residing in the area without reasonable access to a Catholic church for the celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments. St. Peter Church in the town of Goderich in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Peter Church*) is within a thirty-minute driving time

from the hamlet of Kingsbridge; indeed, St. Joseph Church falls within the territorial boundaries of St. Peter Parish in the town of Goderich in the county of Huron in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Peter Parish*) and has been served by the pastor of that parish.

I give leave to those within the diocesan curia charged with the administration of temporal matters to dispose of St. Joseph 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 of canon 121, I further decree that the proceeds from the sale of the land on which St. Joseph Church is situated obtains and belongs to the canonically established parish into which St. Joseph Parish has been amalgamated, namely St. Peter Parish, the wishes of the founders and benefactors having been duly regarded and taken into consideration.

I direct this decree be published in St. Joseph Church and St. Peter Church 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 eighteenth day of September in the year two thousand and twelve.

Bishop of London

Chancellor