

ASSUMPTION RESTORATION PROGRESS REPORT – July 24, 2020

1. An update was issued on March 9, 2020 at the outset of the pandemic shut down. At that time, I was able to report that, in addition to the new roof, new heating system and asbestos abatement we were able to add new LED lighting to the service area, a new entrance to the boiler room basement, and an upgraded fire alarm system. All the Phase I work was completed under budget.
2. Work has continued during the Covid-19 shutdown. New stairs have now been installed in the tower to replace two 16-foot aluminum ladders. Proper access to the attic is needed for the plaster consolidation, new insulation, upgraded fire protection, new electrical wiring, and for long-term maintenance. These new stairs also eliminate the need for outside scaffolding and stairs for access to the attic during construction.
3. The architectural and engineering work required for all of the Phase 2 plaster consolidation and paint restoration has been substantially completed. Most of the approvals required from the Ontario Heritage Trust and from the local Windsor Heritage Committee have been obtained. The Construction Management Contract with Papatello Construction has been finalized. Work has begun the on the south half of the East aisle.
4. The plaster/paint work will proceed in two simultaneous operations:
 - i) The insulation is removed from the attic to expose the lathe and plaster above the ceiling. Any loose plaster is vacuumed out of the space between the lathe.
 - ii) Several applications of a liquid, epoxy-like substance is sprayed onto the exposed lathe and plaster. This liquid reattaches and reinforces the plaster. Since the liquid seeps through any cracks in the plaster, it has to be immediately wiped from the ceiling. A floor must be installed at approximately the top of the pillars to be able to reach the ceiling.
5. One-half of the pews on the east aisle have been placed in storage. The wall is now bare. The priceless, hand-carved wood pulpit has been completely wrapped to protect it. A temporary floor has been erected level with the top of the columns. A platform has been built over the sanctuary roof to accommodate removal of attic insulation and debris.
6. The Phase 2 plaster consolidation and paint restoration on the east aisle has a construction budget of \$1.25 million. We have \$775,000 cash on hand for construction after the receipt this week of \$25,000 from Alex and Anjali George. A donation of \$250,000 by the Toldo Foundation has been confirmed for payment by August 31,2020. This will be the second \$250,000 donated by the Toldo Foundation. We will require receipt of an additional \$225,000 in cash donations to meet the entire budget for all of the East aisle.
7. Assumption Parish is committed to three goals: 1) avoid incurring any debt; 2) use 100% of restoration donations exclusively for the restoration work; and 3) to continue to raise the funds required without spending money on fundraising. The Construction Management contract with Papatello Construction gives us the flexibility to proceed with the work based upon our cash in hand.
8. We hope to complete 2A (the east aisle) this fall and proceed with 2B (the west aisle) without delay. Both 2B and 2C (the centre aisle) have construction budgets of \$1,250,000 each. Provided we receive the necessary funding, all the interior work on the church can be completed by the fall of 2021.

9. Assumption Parish broadcast Sunday and weekday Mass during the shutdown. It has enjoyed average weekly views by way of video on You Tube of the daily and Sunday masses totalling over 1,000. The parish is continuing to broadcast live on a permanent basis even though the Church has now reopened.
10. Assumption Parish is financially sound with over \$100,000 in cash reserves. Even though the parish cannot restore the church on its own, it is in a strong financial position to be able to maintain the church once the restoration is completed.
11. New initiatives have been endorsed by Bishop Fabbro and by the pastor Fr. Maurice. I believe these will help to animate the ongoing restoration fundraising campaign:
 - i) An application has been authorized to be made to Parks Canada for recognition of Assumption as a **Significant National Historical Place**. Assumption Parish failed to achieve this honour twice in the last 40 years but we are confident that a new application can succeed with the support of the City of Windsor and with the support of both the French and Indigenous communities.
 - ii) We will seek **federal stimulus funding** for 'shovel ready' projects which is anticipated to be part of an economic recovery plan by the government. We have invested in the engineering and architectural plans that would be required to qualify for 'shovel ready' status.
12. The "Mission of Our Lady of the Assumption among the Hurons of Detroit" was established in **1728!** It is rare for any institution in Canada to be able to claim 300 years of continuous existence. The work already completed to stabilize the church has ensured that Assumption Parish will be able to enjoy this **tricentennial** celebration in its historic iconic church. We are aiming to complete the entire restoration of Assumption Church well before this exciting and extraordinary occasion.
13. We can think of it in terms of 500 years of the history of Assumption Parish – the 300 years of past history and the 200 years yet to come. This is consistent with the principle practiced by many indigenous peoples as part of their decision making process: are we honouring the last 7 generations and will this serve the 7 generations to come.
14. We recognize that there are unlimited requests for your generosity from numerous worthy causes. The need for charitable support has certainly increased during the pandemic. We see the restoration of Assumption Church as our obligation to preserve our invaluable heritage and as a sign of hope and our confidence in the future.

**Please support Assumption church restoration.
Donations can be made directly to Assumption Parish
or through the Assumption Parish website <https://assumptionparish.ca>**

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