

ASSUMPTION RESTORATION UPDATE – March 9, 2020

Phase 1 Stabilization

1. A major milestone for the restoration of Assumption church has been reached. The stabilization program has been completed:
 - 1) Copper shingle roof
 - 2) Asbestos remediation
 - 3) Hot water heating system
 - 4) Fireproofing of boiler room and basement area

Additional new items not included in original work plan:

- 5) Service area LED lighting
- 6) Access from parking lot
- 7) Entrance to boiler room/basement
- 8) Upgraded fire alarm system

All Phase 1 work, including the additional items, has been completed for \$1,540,000 – \$60,000 under budget. The stabilization program has substantially arrested the deterioration of Assumption church.

2. There has been an enthusiastic response from the entire community. On September 8, 2019, 1,000 attended the return to Assumption church, and over 1,700 attended the Christmas celebrations. Windsor Symphony's performance of Handel's Messiah at Assumption church was sold out within a few days. The new heating system has reduced costs for a projected annual savings of over \$35,000.

Phase 2 : Plaster Consolidation & Painting

3. Design work and document preparation are almost complete. Consultations with Ontario Heritage Trust and the City of Windsor Heritage planner are ongoing and have been positive.

The low bidder on Phase 1 was Papatello Construction. The work was completed under budget and on time. Papatello is a local, unionized contractor who maintained a good working relationship with Assumption Parish, with the Diocese, and with the architect during construction. A Construction Management contract is being negotiated with Papatello for Phase 2. It is expected that Phase 3 outside brick and masonry work will be tendered to prequalified contractors.

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. The scaffold used for the plaster work can then be used for the painting. It is possible to proceed in sections as the money becomes available. The plan is to begin in the east aisle, followed by the west aisle, and finally the centre. The intention is to continue to use Assumption church, if possible, during all this work.

6. Work has already begun on Phase 2 by the installation of two flights of steps in the bell tower which will replace the 20-foot aluminum stepladders. These new stairs will provide permanent and safe access to the attic and bells in the tower. These tower stairs will eliminate the need for outdoor scaffold to remove old insulation in the attic, to deliver new materials for the plaster consolidation, and to install new insulation. The new stairs will also eliminate the danger posed by outdoor scaffold and stairs which provided an irresistible temptation to teenagers during the work on the roof.
7. Although the work completed to date has stabilized Assumption church, much more work is required. After the plaster and paint phase is completed, future phases will include foundation repairs, masonry restoration of the brick and stone, stained-glass window restoration, sacristy rebuild, and much more.

Finances

8. All of the Phase 1 expenses (\$1,540,000) have been paid. The Phase 2 budget has been established at \$3,500,000 – \$4,000,000. The higher amount reflects potential inflation if the work is not completed in 2020. Phase 2A plaster and paint work will begin on the east aisle. The Phase 2A budget is \$1,450,000 which includes the design work for all of Phase 2. We have \$1,150,000 cash on hand (80% of the money required for Phase 2A). Fundraising to achieve the additional \$300,000 required is ongoing.
9. In June 2020, Assumption Parish will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Basilian Fathers who have ministered to many generations of parishioners. The Basilian Fathers, whose focus is on education, also assumed responsibility for Assumption University and Assumption College High School 150 years ago. A celebration will be held by Assumption University and Assumption College High School in the fall.
10. Assumption Parish is grateful for the hundreds of donors who have given renewed hope for the future of this important icon. 100% of all funds donated are going directly to pay for the restoration.

**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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