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**Bishop Fabbro's Letter to the Parishioners of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish**

August 11-12, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last October, at the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, I announced that, with the support of Father Restivo, I had accepted the offer of Mr. Paul Mullins to undertake an independent analysis of the history of the Assumption fund-raising campaigns, and also of the different options available for the future of the historic Assumption Church as well as the parish.

For the past ten months, Mr. Mullins has worked diligently on this report, poring over numerous documents, legal contracts and financial records, and interviewing many people who were involved in the fund-raising campaigns. I directed diocesan staff and clergy to make themselves available to Mr. Mullins. I also directed that diocesan records be made fully available to Mr. Mullins. I felt strongly that these steps were critical to ensure the completeness of the report, particularly the analysis of the fund-raising campaigns.

This weekend, Mr. Mullins will be presenting his *Interim Report* to the parish which covers the fund-raising campaigns. Mr. Mullins has provided me with an opportunity to review his *Interim Report*.

I would like to thank Mr. Mullins publicly for his *Interim Report* and commend him for the high quality of his work. His report offers a detailed and thorough account of what occurred. I would also like to thank all of those who gave him their time and cooperation.

In the introduction of the report, Mr. Mullins states: "The information provided in this report will most likely be disturbing, disappointing and/or upsetting to anyone who cares about the restoration of Assumption church." As your bishop, I acknowledge that mistakes were made, and I accept responsibility for the mistakes made by the Diocese of London. Mr. Mullins is very critical of the confidential nature of the agreement that we signed with the professional fundraisers (PMC). Also, he faults me for failing to provide the board members of Assumption Heritage Trust Foundation with a copy of this agreement. In hindsight, I see that I assumed that the board members had been provided with a copy of this agreement; I was surprised to learn that they had not seen the agreement. I regret this mistaken assumption and am sorry that I did not ensure that the board had a copy of the agreement. Despite the various criticisms of me or of diocesan representatives, I want to emphasize that I and the others who were leading this project were trying to do all we could to save Assumption Church.

Reading the *Interim Report* has helped me to understand why there has been such negativity and distrust. My prayer is that publication and discussion of the *Interim Report* will help to heal these wounds. The report confirms, I believe, my strong commitment to restore Assumption Church. Over these years, I have worked hard, along with you, the parishioners, and many dedicated leaders, donors and members of the community who are passionate about the restoration project and truly want it to succeed.

Mr. Mullins intends to complete the work he set out to do and clarify the options for moving forward. I am hopeful that questions regarding the restoration of the church and the future of Assumption Parish, its location and buildings, can be resolved.

Through the intercession of Our Lady of the Assumption, may the Holy Spirit continue to guide all who participate in this important work.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.*

Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.  
Bishop of London