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To: The Parishioners of Assumption Parish

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For several years, the future of Assumption Church has been an open question for all of us.

In 2017, the year that marked the 250th anniversary of Assumption Parish, I announced that, with the support of Fr. Restivo, I had accepted the offer of Mr. Paul Mullins. He had approached me about his willingness to donate his time and talents to undertake an independent analysis of the history of the Assumption fund-raising campaigns, and of the different options available for the future of the historic Assumption Church as well as the parish. I pledged the complete cooperation of my office and diocesan staff and directed that diocesan records be made fully available to him.

Since that time, Mr. Mullins has committed himself to a solid year of study, research, and writing. His gift has been extraordinary. I would like to commend him for the excellent work he has done and offer him my most sincere gratitude. I thank all of those who gave him their time and cooperation, and I thank the parishioners and leaders of Assumption Parish for their patience and understanding.

This weekend, Mr. Mullins is presenting his Second Report, in which he provides a carefully researched overall view of Assumption parish and both of her churches, namely, Assumption Church and Holy Name of Mary Church.

The preferred option, outlined in Mr. Mullins' report, is the restoration of Assumption Church. This has been my long-held hope. I fully support the work that will now need to be done to determine whether sufficient funds can be raised to restore Assumption Church.

In light of the offer made by Mr. Al Quesnel – a gift of \$5-million of matching funding – I pledge \$1-million from the Diocese of London as part of the challenge to match Mr. Al Quesnel's generous gift, and as an incentive for other gifts and pledges toward the goal of \$20-million. The Diocese would commit these funds when Assumption Parish has secured the funding necessary for a restoration to begin.

Mr. Mullins' report states that there would be more financial support for the restoration, if it incorporated community use. I am open to an examination of ways Assumption Church and Rosary Chapel could be made available to serve the entire community, as long as they are consistent with the needs of Assumption Parish and with a sacred place for worship in our Catholic tradition. This examination of options should include recognition of the historic importance of the French pioneers and of the Indigenous community to Assumption Parish and the entire country.

I ask for your prayers for this important work. Through the intercession of Our Lady of the Assumption, may the Holy Spirit strengthen and guide us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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