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DECREE

Having received the recommendation of the Episcopal Vicar for Windsor and the reports of the consultation process conducted with the parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in the city of Windsor in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Vincent de Paul Parish*), and having consulted with the Council of Priests of the Diocese of London on September 13, 2022, in accordance with canon 1222, §1-2, I, Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B., Bishop of London, do hereby decree that St. Vincent de Paul Church in the city of Windsor in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Vincent de Paul Church*) be canonically closed and no longer designated as a place for divine worship effective October 7, 2022.

The reasons for this action are:

1. Constructed in 1956-1957, St. Vincent de Paul Church has experienced significant structural deterioration over the last decade particularly in regard to repeated flooding of the basement area, which has resulted in the prevalence of black mold in the basement walls. Parish records indicate that flooding in the basement has been a constant and insufficiently addressed issue for many years, allowing the unnoticed growth of black mold until the spring/summer of 2021 when sections of drywall were removed revealing the extensive mold contamination.
2. The mold contamination extends to the public washroom, which are located in the basement area, making them unusable for reasons of public health and safety.
3. The abatement of mold in the building would be very costly and certainly beyond the present financial capacity of the parish, which has diminished notably in the number of parishioners and its financial resources.

4. The removal of black mold would be only a partial response to the structural issues affected St. Vincent de Paul Church. The causes of the repeated flooding would need to be rectified. The most serious of these is a crack in the building's foundations, which would require a very large financial outlay to repair. Again, such capital expenditures are beyond the capacity of the parish, which is not even able to meet its operational expenses.
5. Compounding the primary issue of water damage and the consequent structural decay, the chairlift which provides accessibility from the ground level to the main body of the church has fallen into disrepair and did not pass the most recent safety inspection. The replacement of this means of accessibility is likewise beyond the present financial capacity of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.
6. In sum the restoration of St. Vincent de Paul Church in order to make it useable and safe for the now very small congregation is well beyond what it could possibly afford. The debt incurred in repairing the church building would be unsupportable, impeding if not damaging the broader pastoral vision for ministry in this area of the city of Windsor.

I give leave to those within the diocesan curia charged with the administration of temporal matters to dispose of St. Vincent de Paul Church, taking care to observe faithfully the pertinent civil laws in this regard and to see to the proper disposition of all liturgical items and cultural artifacts presently in the building.

Finally, I direct this decree to be published in Our Lady of the Atonement Parish in the city of Windsor in the province of Ontario 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 thirtieth day of September in the year two thousand and twenty-two.

† Ronald Tabbara, CSB
Bishop of London



David Sillinger
Chancellor