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DECREE

Having received the recommendation of the Episcopal Vicar for Ingersoll and the reports of those within the diocesan curia charged with the study of the reorganization of parishes, I, Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B., Bishop of London, do hereby decree that St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community in the hamlet of Courtland in the county of Norfolk in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community*) be suppressed effective December 29, 2013.

The reasons for this action is the serious diminishment in the number of Hungarian-speaking Catholics presently connected to or engaged in the community. As a result, St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community is no longer pastorally and financially viable.

Since St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community does not possess the status of a public juridic person, no further canonical action is required. Upon the recommendation of the Episcopal Vicar for Ingersoll and the concerned faithful consulted, its assets are to be disbursed in accordance with the formula detailed in my decree of December 16, 2013 canonically closing St. Ladislaus Church in the hamlet of Courtland in the county of Norfolk in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Ladislaus Church*.)

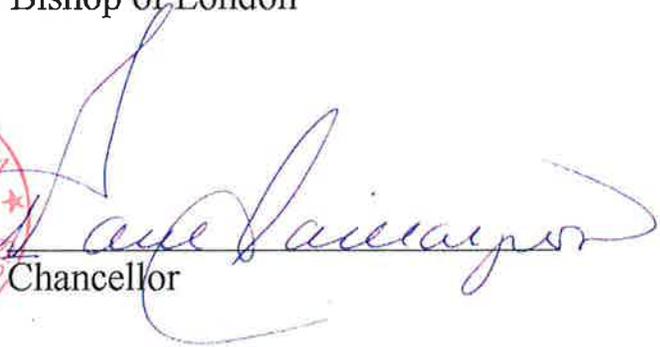
Furthermore, in order to provide easier access to the faithful, I decree that the sacramental records of St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community be transferred to and maintained by St. Mary Parish in the town of Tillsonburg in the county of Norfolk in the province of Ontario.

I direct that this decree be published in St. Ladislaus Church 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 seventeenth day of December in the year two thousand and thirteen.


Bishop of London




Chancellor

DECREE

Having received the recommendation of the Episcopal Vicar for Ingersoll and the reports of those within the diocesan curia charged with the study of the reorganization of parishes, and having consulted with the Council of Priests of the Diocese of London on November 6, 2013, in accordance with canon 1222, §1, I, Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B., Bishop of London, do hereby decree that St. Ladislaus Church in the hamlet of Courtland in the county of Norfolk in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Ladislaus Church*) be canonically closed and no longer used for divine worship effective December 29, 2013.

The reasons for this action are:

- In recent years, St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community in the hamlet of Courtland in the county of Norfolk in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community*) has dwindled to between fifteen (15) to twenty (20) members, attending the one (1) Sunday Mass. The reasons for this marked decline are multiple. The elderly members of the Catholic Community have relocated to the larger towns in the area where there are better services to accommodate the needs of older adults. In addition, many members of the original post-war Hungarian community have died in the last decades and there is no new immigration from Hungary to replenish the population of the rapidly diminishing community. Children of the original members of the community have migrated to other areas of Ontario and Canada. As a result of this dramatic demographic shift, St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community finds itself without the membership needed for its viability.

- The decrease in the number of parishioners attending Sunday Mass has led to a steep decrease in the offertory revenue. At the end of August 2013, the year-to-date revenue of \$5,542.50 was only one quarter of what it had been one year earlier. It is estimated that the present trend in the offertory revenue will produce a deficit of \$33,000 by the end of 2013.
- The drastic decline in revenue makes it virtually impossible to meet the ordinary operating expenses for St. Ladislaus Church or to support properly the priest-chaplain of the Catholic Community.
- There is no current comprehensive Building Condition Report for either the church, the parish hall or rectory. A visual inspection by the Diocesan Building Coordinator did not indentify any significant structural issues or safety concerns. Nevertheless the serious decline in the income of St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community will preclude any ongoing maintenance of the church building, resulting in its steady but ineviatable deterioration over time.
- Compounding these factors is the further issue that the present priest-chaplain of St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community will retire from active ministry at the end of October 2014. The securing of another Hungarian-speaking priest is not only practically difficult but also inexpedient given the imminent disappearance of the Hungarian Catholic Community to which he would minister.
- The closure of St. Ladislaus Church will not leave those residing in the area without reasonable access to a Catholic church for the celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments. St. Mary Church in the town of Tillsonburg in the county of Oxford in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Mary Church*), Sacred Heart Church in the village of Langton in the county of Norfolk in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *Sacred Heart Church*), and Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Church in the town of Delhi in the county of Norfolk in the

province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Church*) are all within a thirty-minute driving time from the hamlet of Courtland.

- Should St. Ladislaus Church remain open, it will soon be unused due to the lack of a priest-chaplain and attending members — a situation that is both unseemly and inappropriate for a building with a designated sacred character and purpose.
- No public funds are available from any level of government or from any charitable foundation to maintain the church building for any sacred purpose.

I give leave to those within the diocesan curia charged with the administration of temporal matters to dispose of St. Ladislaus Church and the property on which it is situated, taking care to observe faithfully the pertinent civil laws in this regard and the provisions of the *Code of Canon Law* concerning the alienation of temporal goods.

Upon the recommendation of the Episcopal Vicar for Ingersoll and representatives of the local faithful consulted, I decree that the proceeds from the sale of St. Ladislaus Church, the parish rectory and the land on which they stand, and all other assets of St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community shall be divided as follows:

- 50% for the ongoing maintenance of St. Ladislaus Cemetery in the hamlet of Courtland;
- 25% to St. Mary Parish in the town of Tillsonburg in the county of Oxford in the province of Ontario;
- 10% to Sacred Heart Parish in the village of Langton in the county of Norfolk in the province of Ontario;
- 5% to Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Parish in the town of Delhi in the county of Norfolk in the province of Ontario;
- 10% to charities as follows:

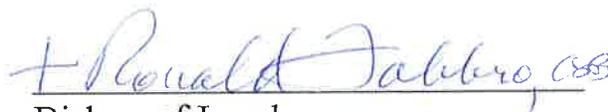
- 5% to Tillsonburg General Hospital in the town of Tillsonburg in the county of Oxford in the province of Ontario; and
- 5% to St. Peter's Seminary in the city of London in the county of Middlesex in the province of Ontario.

These disbursements are only to be made once all the legitimate debts of St. Ladislaus Hungarian Catholic Community have been paid in full.

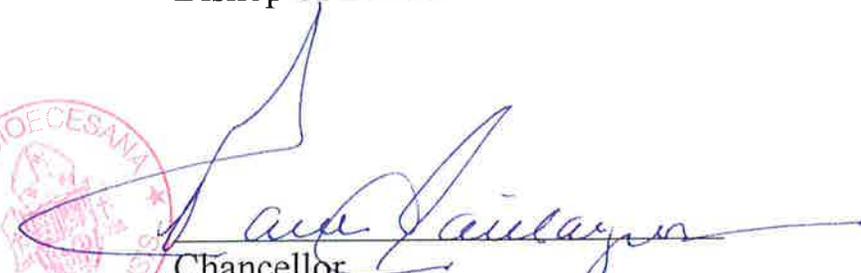
I further direct that those in the diocesan curia responsible for the disposition of St. Ladislaus Church take every care to remove all liturgical items and sacred objects from the church proper and to see to their redistribution to other churches or suitable facilities. Failing this, these items are to be disposed of in accordance with the prescribed liturgical and canonical norms.

Finally, I direct this decree be published in St. Ladislaus Church 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 sixteenth day of December in the year two thousand and thirteen.


Bishop of London




Chancellor