

DECREE

Having received the recommendation of Reverend Dwayne Adam, Vicar General of the Diocese of London, and of those charged with the study of the reorganization of parishes in the diocesan administration, and having consulted with the Council of Priests of the Diocese of London on September 13, 2011, in accordance with canon 1222, §2, I, Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B., Bishop of London, do hereby decree that Our Lady of LaSalette Church in the hamlet of LaSalette in the county of Norfolk in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *Our Lady of LaSalette Church*), be canonically closed and no longer used for divine worship effective November 1, 2011.

The reasons for this action are:

- Our Lady of LaSalette Parish in the hamlet of LaSalette in the county of Norfolk in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *Our Lady of LaSalette Parish*) was canonically suppressed on June 21, 2007 and its territory amalgamated into Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Parish in the town of Delhi in the county of Norfolk in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Parish*.) Hence Our Lady of LaSalette Church no longer serves as a parochial church and is a surplus building within the parish community where it is now located. Apart from one Sunday Mass celebrated for migrant workers in the region, who are present for only a certain portion of the year, Our Lady of LaSalette Church stands empty and unused, an unseemly and unsuitable situation given the sacred character and designation of this building. The closure of the church will not impede the pastoral care of the migrant workers, which may be readily accomplished at 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*), which is less than fifteen (15) kilometers from Our Lady of LaSalette Church.
- Because of the age and condition of Our Lady of LaSalette Church, it

continues to require repairs and restoration. While there are some bequest monies available to cover these costs, once these are used up, the upkeep of Our Lady of LaSalette Church will fall to the parishioners of Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Parish, who do not require it for liturgy or as a site for pastoral ministry. It is neither financially possible nor expedient for Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Parish, in whose territory Our Lady of LaSalette Church lies, to maintain this building adequately, and there is no possibility of obtaining the necessary revenues from other sources, whether private or public, to provide for its care and upkeep; the financial effort to provide for Our Lady of La Salette Church will only consume limited financial resources that could otherwise be used for ministry and pastoral outreach within the parish as a whole.

I give leave to those within the diocesan curia charged with the administration of temporal matters to transfer Our Lady of LaSalette Church and the property on which it is situated to the Rural Roots Community Groups at LaSalette, whose mandate is the preservation of local heritage sites, 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.

I direct that this decree be published in Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs 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 fourteenth day of October in the year two thousand and eleven.

Bishop of London

Chancellor