



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF SAINT JOHN

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To the People of the Diocese of Saint John

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Last January I wrote to you regarding the need to restore our diocesan mother church, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, in Saint John. At the time I outlined the extensive repair that needed to be done. The figure quoted then was eight million dollars. After having further study done, the needed repair could be in the range of ten million dollars.

At a meeting of the Curia, it was decided to look into the feasibility of having a Capital Campaign. We have been advised to add to a campaign any other needs which the diocese might have to properly care for the pastoral needs of our people. The plan would be to establish several endowment funds to assure that into the foreseeable future the diocese might provide programs in the area of Religious Education for Children and Adolescents, Youth Ministry, Adult Faith Formation, Family Life and Social Justice Outreach. If we were to include the endowment funds in the campaign, the funding required would total twenty million dollars.

A Feasibility Study is being initiated to assess the support for such a Capital Campaign among the faithful of the diocese and in the community at large. Between now and September meetings will be held with the Clergy as well as in the three regions of our diocese. Members of Parish Councils, Finance Councils, and other parish committees will receive a letter of invitation. The confidential lists of names and addresses are currently being prepared. Needless to say, all of the faithful will be welcome to participate in these consultations.

The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed of what we are doing and to solicit your ongoing support. Please keep this project and the needs of our diocese in your prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Robert Harris
Bishop of Saint John