



St. Patrick's Parish

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To the Parishioners of St. Patrick's Church

Dear Parishioners,

Since joining St. Patrick's Parish as your Pastor, it has been my honour to support you in our spiritual journey. Early upon coming to Caledonia, it became evident to me that there were many long-standing parishioners who were challenged to manoeuvre the entrance into the Church, deal with no washroom access, and be excluded from Parish functions in our basement due to lack of accessibility.

Working with St. Patrick's Finance Council, and many others who also recognized this significant issue, we began conversations and dialogue to better understand what structural changes were required in response to the upcoming accessibility legislation, and to make our Church safe and structurally sound. Being able to enter God's House is not a privilege, rather it is the right of any who chooses to enter Its doors. This became a mission for our Church - to make it accessible and welcoming to all.

We have reached the point in the planning process where the plans have been drafted, presented for discussion and input, revised and now signed off by Bishop Bergie and Peter Machaud from the Diocese, and by myself. We have worked closely with the Diocese and Bishop Bergie to ensure the loan is secured, and just this week we received confirmation that the loan documents have been signed with Meridian Credit Union. The \$400,000 construction loan is now in place. This allows us to move to the stage where the Construction Firm will be hired and construction can begin. We anticipate this to start late Fall 2017.

It is disappointing for me to be leaving just as this project begins to take life. However, it is my responsibility to obey the orders which I am given and God is calling me to undertake a new project in Edmonton. There I will continue to help those that most need it.

I leave you with my hope that you will continue to work together towards the common goal for St. Patricks – to be accessible and welcoming to all who enter. I have faith that God will support you in this journey to prepare his House and I wish you only great success in this venture.

May God be with each of you as you travel your journey and may He bless you and help you to remain committed and focused in this very important project for the Catholic Faith in Caledonia.

God Bless

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mario Fernandes'.

Father Mario Fernandes
Pastor, St. Patrick's Church