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Prot. No. 024/2019

DECREE

**CLOSURE OF STE. MARIE CHURCH
ELLIOT LAKE, ONTARIO**

Whereas, the Code of Canon Law gives the Diocesan Bishop, for the good of the Mission of the Church, the right to "establish, suppress or alter parishes" (canon 515, §2);

Whereas, I have reviewed the assessment and recommendations of the Pastor, the Parish Finance Committee and the Parish Pastoral Council of Ste. Marie Parish;

Whereas, I have taken into consideration the different presentations in favor of and against the closure of Ste. Marie Parish;

Whereas, the decrease of active parishioners of Ste. Marie Parish has led to a serious decline in its operating revenue, with the effect that the financial resources are insufficient to cover the operating costs to maintain the current church building which requires major renovations;

Whereas, I have ascertained that it would be a grave injustice to place a significant financial burden on present and future parishioners of Ste. Marie Parish;

Whereas, Our Lady of Fatima Church is located less than 500 meters from Ste. Marie Church;

Whereas, the spiritual needs of the Catholic faithful of the City of Elliot Lake, in the province of Ontario, can be better served in a newly erected Parish, as expressed in my decree of *Modification by Extinctive Union of Our Lady of Fatima Parish and Ste. Marie Parish* issued on May 1, 2019;

Having consulted the Council of Priests of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie on February 19-20, 2019, in accordance with canon 515, §2; and

Having prayed to the Holy Spirit to guide me in this decision,


CLOSURE OF STE. MARIE CHURCH


I, Marcel Damphousse, Bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, do hereby decree that

Ste. Marie Church in the city of Elliot Lake, in the province of Ontario, will be closed as a worship site, effective **June 3, 2019**, and it will be relegated to profane but not sordid use, in conformity to the norms set out in canons 121 and 1222, §2 of the Code of Canon Law.

I direct that this decree be published in Ste. Marie and Our Lady of Fatima Parishes and by a suitable means to all the other parishes in the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, with the understanding that any substantiated recourse against this decree must be presented in writing within ten canonical days from the time this decree is lawfully promulgated, in accordance with canon 1734, §1-2.

Signed in Sudbury, in the province of Ontario, under my hand and seal of the Diocese, on this sixth day of May in the year two thousand and nineteen.


+ Marcel Damphousse
Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie


Rev. Jean Vézina
Chancellor

