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The Most Reverend [REDACTED]
Bishop of the Diocese of [REDACTED]

Your Excellency, Most Reverend Bishop [REDACTED],

Greetings in Christ! [REDACTED]

I am a member of St. [REDACTED] Parish in [REDACTED]. I am writing this note to express my mounting concerns regarding souls living in the [REDACTED] area (and beyond). These concerns have come to me from the enlightenment and increasingly, incessant promptings of the Holy Spirit which I can no longer put aside. I am becoming gravely aware that my current acts of mercy, while very pleasing to Jesus are not enough, as He wants and expects me to do more. His urgency is preoccupying my thoughts, my heart and my soul, beyond what I can express. His silent whispers are telling me that my prayers and personal deeds alone are simply not enough.

The following Gospel and Diary verses are constantly in my thoughts.

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Mark 10:14)

“And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me. Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. ... See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father ... If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost. (Matthew 18:5-14)

“The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be humbled: and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted ... Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites. You lock the kingdom of heaven before human beings. You do not enter yourselves, nor do you allow entrance to those trying to enter. ... Behold, your house

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will be abandoned, desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again till you say, 'Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord'." (Matthew 23:11-39)

"I know your works; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth." (Revelation 3:15-16)

I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbour: the first - by deed, the second - by word, the third - by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy. Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy, and I demand the worship of My mercy through the solemn celebration of the Feast and through the veneration of the image which is painted. By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works. (Diary, 742)

Tell sinners that no one shall escape My Hand; if they run away from My Merciful Heart, they will fall into My Just Hands. Tell sinners that I am always waiting for them, that I listen intently to the beating of their heart ... when will it beat for Me? Write, that I am speaking to them through their remorse of conscience, through their failures and sufferings, through thunderstorms, through the voice of the Church. And if they bring all My graces to naught, I begin to be angry with them, leaving them alone and giving them what they want. (Diary, 1728)

"+During Holy Mass, I saw the Lord Jesus nailed upon the cross amidst great torments. A soft moan issued from His Heart. After some time, He said: "**I thirst. I thirst for the salvation of souls. Help Me, My daughter, to save souls.**" (Diary, 1032)

"Come to Me, all of you." (Diary, 1485)

"The loss of each soul plunges Me into mortal sadness." (Diary, 1397)

Regardless of these relentless promptings, anyway I look at it, I am guilty of breaking the **1st Commandment of God**. Through the prompting of the Holy Spirit, God has both blessed and burdened me with the most profound knowledge of His unfathomable love, mercy (and justice) and ultimately **His most intense desire to save all souls**. Therefore, I can no longer stand aside and not be a "voice" for Jesus as it is causing Jesus' great suffering. I have come to believe that to refrain from making these assertions, especially at this stage of my own spiritual growth, would make me "**indifferent**" (lukewarm).

While I have lived in [REDACTED] for over [REDACTED] years now, I cannot confirm the exact details nor complete accuracy, of what I am about to say regarding the history of St. [REDACTED] Church in [REDACTED]. However, I have been informed by several people in the area that, in the past English Speaking Catholics had an English Mass in the basement of St. [REDACTED] Church or in St. [REDACTED] Catholic School (later closed) in [REDACTED]. Apparently, when the French Speaking Catholics were holding other activities (eg: bingo) in the basement of St. [REDACTED] Church, the English Speaking Catholics were

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prevented from having their mass in the basement, so they would have to hold their mass at St. [REDACTED] School.

Fortunately, as a result, St. [REDACTED] Church was built in [REDACTED] for the English Speaking Catholics. Unfortunately, approximately twelve years ago, St. [REDACTED] Church in [REDACTED] was closed (as well as St. [REDACTED] Church in [REDACTED]). An old school in [REDACTED] was purchased and converted into the present day St. [REDACTED] Church (gymnasium) which is the only English Speaking Catholic church for Catholics, for both the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Areas. Therefore, sadly, [REDACTED] English Speaking Catholics have no church in [REDACTED].

This is unjust for reasons provided and based on my understanding that, since the beginnings of Christianity, community churches were built in just about every town which makes sense as churches should offer a sense of “closeness and community” (We are all one family in Christ.).

Having a physical church in your community that welcomes you is like a **beacon for Jesus Christ**, otherwise He becomes “**out of sight, out of mind**” for many people. It has been my experience that “holy statues” and “holy images” are doorways to heaven. Therefore, what better doorway to heaven, than a traditional, large physical Catholic church like St. [REDACTED] to remind everyone in [REDACTED] of **GOD**.

Unfortunately, [REDACTED] requires a significant commute by car. This poses a serious barrier for many valid reasons. Firstly, a driver’s license and a reliable vehicle are necessary to get you there. Secondly, during the months of reduced daylight hours, night driving is involved. In bad weather (rain, snow etc) driving on the highway is hazardous. I know from my own experience, it is more difficult to drive at night due to reduced vision, making it unsafe to drive long distances at night (I myself avoid driving in the dark on the highway whenever possible). [REDACTED] I do not feel safe being out at night alone and having a community church to go to is a blessing for me as it allows me to quickly and easily get to church as often as I can. Many people don’t drive at all (children, the elderly, the sick, caregivers of the sick, etc) so they have no way to get to [REDACTED] unless they can get someone else to drive them which is not that easy nor convenient (without making them feel like a burden). I personally know people in these type of situations, both young and old. There are also married couples, in which one spouse does not speak French.

In all honesty, I do not even like nor enjoy the setting St. [REDACTED] Church currently has to offer – it is an old school gymnasium with no windows, no steeple (bell tower), etc. It lacks the ambience provided by the traditional church structures like St. [REDACTED]. I have also heard this comment from other people. Suffice it to say that St. [REDACTED] has been immensely more spiritually satisfying and enjoyable for me personally, despite any difficulties I have encountered and it has all been truly worth it for me.

While English Speaking Catholics may be welcome, not being able to speak French is a significant barrier as it causes “frustration” and “causative suffering” as one can imagine, resulting in “**division**” which is the primary tactic of the devil (we see this in “**The Tower of Babel**” **Genesis 11:1-9**). Fortunately, I have a limited but somewhat sufficient ability to speak, read and understand the French language and therefore I can participate and understand most of the mass

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and can take part in small short conversation (eg: greetings and a some short sentences). However, at times, in private conversations, I have had to very reluctantly request that I be spoken to in English as I have gotten lost in conversation. Also, I am not as articulate in French, so I cannot express myself to the best of my ability without speaking in English ([REDACTED]). Regardless, I have been blessed with the grace of faith in God since I was a child and I am not intimidated at all by these difficulties – St. [REDACTED] is my Father’s house and it is Jesus, The Beloved first and foremost that I yearn for and desire to be united with.

Unfortunately, this is not the case with other English Speaking Catholics (and others) as has been my experience, especially as of late. As I have become active in Jesus’ mission to evangelize (“**make disciples of all men**”) I have discovered that a “**patient, loving and merciful approach**” is the only way to accomplish this goal. There are Souls (Catholic and otherwise) in [REDACTED] that will not come into the house of their Father (St. [REDACTED]) for the only reason that they cannot understand nor speak French. Therefore, I feel we have to be merciful, understanding these hinderances people experience and be open to accommodation and change.

Pope Francis says: “**Being afraid of change is the temptation of the devil.**”

Another serious consideration is that our parish is aging and that there are hardly any young people and children attending mass. The youth and children of [REDACTED] are needed to ensure the survival of St. [REDACTED] as eventually the older people will pass away. The youth and children are the future of the church, just as they are the future of the world. They are also innocent and being such are the easiest to catechize as they do not have any set beliefs like adults usually do.

To truly get to know Jesus/God (The Holy Trinity) we need to attend mass and receive the sacraments and their associated graces which can only be accessed via a physical church. The “[REDACTED] Chapel” down the street has a black and white sign outside their doors that reads both “Welcome” and “Bienvenu”. The Catholic Church is the only Christian Church that holds “the fullness of the truth” and therefore I believe it is our utmost duty as Catholics to share this truth especially within our own community of [REDACTED] by eliminating the language barrier posed to many.

Father James Altman says: “**You can’t love who you don’t know.**”

Therefore, I am requesting if you would please consider the possibility of instituting at least one English mass (on Saturday or Sunday) at a different time than the French masses at St. [REDACTED] Church. Perhaps one mass can be said at 12:00 pm on Sunday? Or one mass can be said on Saturday at 5:00 pm. And perhaps offering one additional “bilingual” weekday mass would be beneficial as a precursor for encouraging unity, considering we are all children of God and equal heirs to His Kingdom? It is my sincerest hope and prayer that you will make this happen in St. [REDACTED] Church in [REDACTED] very soon. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully in Christ,

[REDACTED]