DIOCESE OF LONDON

An Update on the Status of the former St. Peter's School and the Cathedral Property

To: Parishioners of St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica and the London North Central Catholic Family of Parishes.

Father Daniel Bombardier, Pastor of the Family of Parishes, his staff and representatives from the parish have been working with members of the diocesan administration to determine the future of the former school north of the Cathedral. It was decided in 2022 that it was too expensive to maintain and not suited for the needs of the parish, so it would be vacated and demolished.

The occupants were given notice in the fall of 2022 to vacate the building at various times in 2023 in compliance with the terms of their different written contracts . One occupant initiated legal proceedings to maintain a presence in the building. The court dismissed its application in January which the occupant then appealed to the Court of Appeal. On Friday May 10, we were informed that its appeal had been dismissed. Asbestos removal can begin in the next few weeks and while that work is underway we will apply for a demolition permit. The school is not designated as a heritage building, but it is in a heritage district, so City of London planning staff need to review our application. We do not know when that work can start, but we anticipate it will be later this year or early next year. Diocesan administration and the Cathedral will continue to work together to prayerfully determine a final plan for the future of the site. Watch for more information in parish bulletins in the coming months.

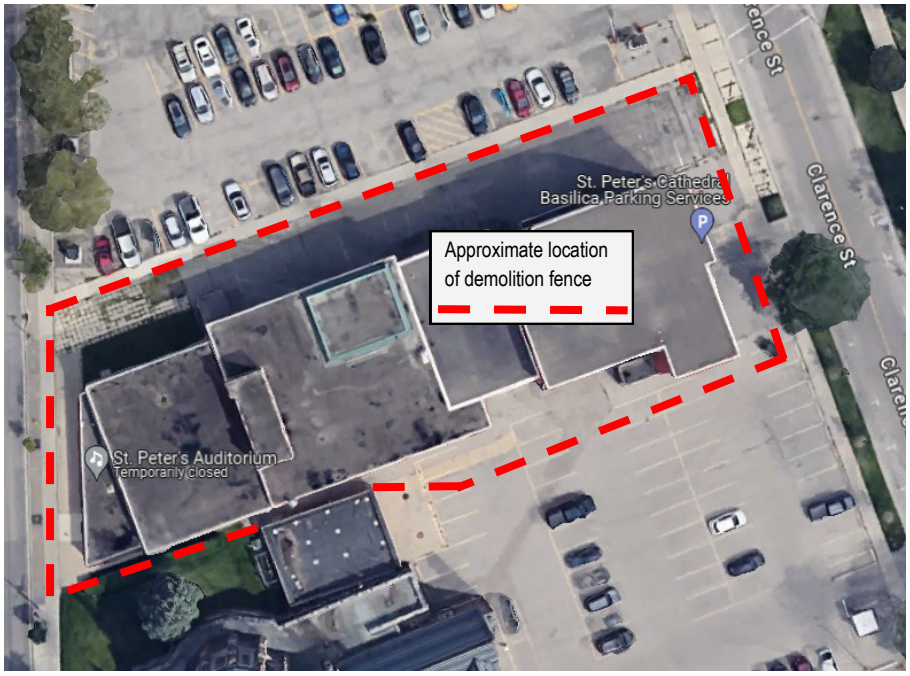
FENCING

With the start of the asbestos removal, contractors may have to install fencing around some of the former school building for our safety. When demolition begins, the whole school will be fenced and that will cause the loss of a few parking spaces in the lot on the south side of the building. As well, the alleyway between the school and the Cathedral will be closed. You can see the approximate location of the fencing in the picture below.

PARKING FOR MASS

The parking lot on the north side of the former school will still be available for those coming to celebrate Mass and park **for free on Sunday mornings**. Proper controls will be in place to ensure the lot is available for parishioner use, especially during weekends when there are festivals in Victoria Park.

PARKING FOR VISITORS

On Saturdays, Sunday afternoons and weeknights, a new vendor "HONK" will process parking payments using an app or a link to their website (no cash or debit). The gate will be up and the lot will be patrolled by the City of London to enforce that parked cars have paid.

The lot remains reserved for monthly pass holders on weekdays from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the gate will be down.