



Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Our Lady of the Assumption  
Grafton, Ontario

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment and send you my very best wishes as you begin your important work for the Church. As Father Hood has no doubt told you, under Canon 12a every Parish is obliged to have a Finance Committee to advise the Pastor on all matters affecting the Temporalities of the Parish. No doubt, the unfortunate financial mismanagement of your Parish could not have taken place, if there had been a properly functioning Finance Committee.

Father Hood will be advising you of the work that he has done in placing the Parish on solid financial basis. Meanwhile, at the Diocesan level steps have been taken to insure that the missing funds are returned to the Church with interest. I am very pleased that everything has been put into place in such a way, that the Parish's cash flow basis will not be affected in any way by the unfortunate circumstances of the past.

I would like, through you, to pass on my best wishes to the Parish.

It is central to our Christian belief that good comes out of evil. The Resurrection of Our Lord was only possible after the ignominy of the Cross. Good has already come out of your situation: the accounting and auditing procedures, not only of your Parish, but of all the Parishes in Diocese, have been changed to ensure that this sort of thing can never happen again. It is one thing to correct financial irregularities; it is another to address the hurt and sense of betrayal that occurs when there has been wrong-doing.

When I first became aware of the problem in Grafton, I approached Father Hood and asked him to accept an appointment as Pastor as soon as the Parish became vacant. He accepted this appointment fully understanding the difficulties involved. Father fully grasped that his primary task was to bring reconciliation and healing to all in the parish. He has already done a great deal to achieve this. Please give him your full support.

You are all very much in my prayers. Wishing you every blessing.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James L. Doyle".

[Most Rév.] James L. Doyle  
Bishop of Peterborough