



10 August 2021

Dear Parish Priests and Pastoral Assistants, and Faithful of the Archdiocese ,

It was with shock and sadness that I learned of the burning of Little Flower Mission church in Fox Lake last Saturday. Fox Lake is one of the three communities that make up the Little Red River Cree Nation. I had been in that Nation only last week for Confirmations in the other two communities, John D'Or Prairie and Garden River.

The people of the Fox Lake community are very devout in their Catholicism, and so I know they feel this loss very deeply. The fire department was able to extinguish the fire, but not before the interior was badly burned. I now hear that even the outer structure may be too compromised to save.

We know few details about the act except that this fire was deliberately set. The RCMP investigation is ongoing, and I have been assured that they will share with me the facts once the investigation is complete.

I ask you to keep the Fox Lake community in your kind prayers. May Jesus, who gave his life for the reconciliation of the world, be with those who seek reconciliation on many fronts. Join with me in praying for the perpetrator of this crime; may he or she realize the injustice and pain of this action, and seek peace through admission of guilt and forgiveness.

At the same time, I ask all of you to remain vigilant around your church properties, and report any suspicious activities to your local RCMP as soon as possible.

Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R.
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