

REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH BUILDINGS

The recent amendments to Canon 4.6, which is concerned with the alteration, addition, renovation (or repair) of parish buildings, have changed the role and raison d'être of the BACCB. There is now an expectation that all work requiring a municipal building permit, or involving an expenditure of \$15,000 or more, will be subject to the Bishop's written permission. That permission must be applied for and may be granted with conditions set by the Bishop requiring the involvement of the BACCB and /or the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC). In consequence, where once the BACCB offered advice only when it was invited, the Committee now must be prepared to take on oversight responsibilities.

There are certain imperatives at work here; that in the cause of transparency, economy and good governance no parish project may proceed unless it is clear that no consequent encumbrance will be placed on a diocesan property; that all design work and subsequent contract agreements will be on the basis of competitive comparisons and that all expenditures will be carefully managed.

In the last year, BACCB members have maintained an oversight responsibility at parishes in Hamilton, St. Catharines, Burlington and Oakville; and separately have responded to requests for assistance from other churches in Welland, Oakville, Guelph, Milton, Hamilton, Beamsville, Jordan and at Canterbury Hills.

We continue to work in cooperation with the Decennial Inspection and Financial Advisory Committees in order to help individual parishes maintain the structural integrity of their buildings; for the sake of public safety, true economy and in service to our Lord.

Any and all requests for assistance or advice will be replied to promptly. Contact either Nancy Clause, the Secretary to the BACCB, in the diocesan offices at (905)527-1316, or Ian Chadwick, Chair, at (905)988-7873.

For the Committee,

The Reverend Canon Ian Chadwick