



DIOCESE OF SAINT JOHN

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Office of the Bishop

June 4, 2025

Dear fellow pilgrims of hope,

In this Jubilee Year, marking the 170th anniversary of our beloved mother church, we give thanks for the ongoing renewal and revitalization at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Each day, many are nourished through Jesus in the Sacraments—Mass, Reconciliation, and Adoration. Increasing numbers of young families, students, newcomers, and returning Catholics are filling our pews. We are seeing tangible fruit: more involvement in Alpha and Beta, Confirmation, RCIA, altar serving, and missionary outreach—including overnight Adoration, Eucharistic and Marian processions, youth events, and expanded outreach through our St. Vincent de Paul Centre. We have much to celebrate!

As a beacon of hope and unity, the Cathedral has been designated a place of pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year. In addition to individual visits, parishes are invited on designated First Saturdays to take part in Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, relic veneration, historical tours, and Jubilee prayers.

We know that caring for the Cathedral's physical needs allows us to continue meeting spiritual needs across the region and diocese. Since 2023 we have been working with Heritage Standing Inc. to complete urgent tower repairs, install a structural health monitoring system, and conduct a Level 2 condition assessment to guide planned repairs over the next decade. To help support this important work, our annual Cathedral Restoration Collection will be taken on the weekend of Corpus Christi, June 21–22, 2025. Use the envelopes in your box sets, white envelopes marked "Cathedral Restoration," or visit <https://dioceseofsaintjohn.org/donations> to give by cheque, e-transfer, or credit card (one-time or recurring). Bequests, securities, and other planned gifts are deeply appreciated and greatly support this vital work. For questions, contact reception@dioceseofsaintjohn.org or 506-653-6800.

I am counting on your fervent prayer for the Cathedral's physical restoration and for the Jubilee grace of spiritual renewal for the hearts and souls of all in the Diocese of Saint John.

United in prayer and mission, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception,

✠ Christian Riesbeck, CC
Bishop of Saint John