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May 28, 2019

Bishop Milan Lach, S.J.
Eparchy of Parma
5000 Rockside Road, Suite 310
Independence, OH 44131

Dear Bishop Lach,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

I hope this correspondence finds Your Grace well. I am writing to you on behalf of some concerned parishioners of St. John the Baptist Cathedral. Recently I was retained to represent these concerned parishioners of the Cathedral. I wish to, specifically, address their concerns about the future of the Cathedral Church building.

Please understand the spirit and tone with which I address and compose this correspondence to Your Grace. I do not write to be confrontational or accusatory. Instead, I write out of a spirit of protecting and vindicating the rights of the Christian faithful of St. John the Baptist, while holding great respect for Your Grace's position and perspective.

As you know, the St. John the Baptist Cathedral is a sacred building dedicated to the glory of God and consecrated for use of the Divine Liturgy. For many years, St. John the Baptist Church has faithfully fulfilled this purpose, as well as serving as the Cathedral Church for the Eparchy of Parma. It is the duty of the Christian faithful to protect and preserve such sacred spaces. However, some parishioners of St. John the Baptist Cathedral have concerns about whether or not their church building is being appropriately cared for.


In the past several months, it has appeared to these concerned parishioners that the finances for the parish of St. John the Baptist have been diminished – perhaps intentionally, perhaps not. Whatever the case may be, these concerned parishioners worry that the loss of

parish income will put a great deal of strain upon the parish and may have dire consequences. These parishioners are concerned that due to the declining financial situation of the parish, St. John the Baptist may lose its position as the Cathedral Church for the Eparchy of Parma. Worse, these parishioners worry that their parish may be closed altogether, and St. John the Baptist Church will be lost to them as a place of worship. Of course, the Cathedral Parish is not just a place of worship, but instead also a source of community, continuity with their families, and place of heritage as well.

Thus, on behalf of the concerned parishioners of St. John the Baptist Cathedral who have retained my services, I write to Your Grace in the hopes of having an open and honest dialogue about the situation of St. John the Baptist Cathedral Church, both in the present and for its future. Please understand that this dialogue would be held with the utmost respect for Your Grace, as well as for *Codex Canonum Ecclesiarum Orientalium* and Eparchial policy. What is unique in this instance is these parishioners have ONLY the best intentions for the preservation, retention and promotion of their Cathedral Parish to protect it from any financial harm. Rarely do situations arise when there is no dispute, but rather all involved are seeking to strive for the same goals to protect, better and promote the Cathedral Parish Church. I therefore Petition Your Grace to have an opportunity to schedule a date/time to speak about this important matter within the next thirty (30) days as this matter is time sensitive.

I thank Your Grace for your time and attention to this correspondence. I, and the parishioners I represent, look forward to future dialogue with you about this important issue. Should Your Grace have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,


Robert J.B. Plummerfelt