May 13, 2020

His Excellency the Most Reverend Guy Desrochers
Bishop of the Diocese of Pembroke

Your Excellency Bishop Desrochers:

We offer our congratulations to you on your new appointment and we offer you our prayers and support in your demanding new responsibility.

We are aware of your duties and responsibilities, but we would like to bring to your attention a certain concern of our Polish - Canadian community. In April 2020 we were greatly saddened by Fr, Blaszak, who passed us the news that Sunday masses are limited to two masses which only occur during the two weeks of Polish Scout camps in Kaszuby, Ontario.

The Franciscan Kaszuby Chapel's open-air Mass has served the Polish-speaking Catholic community for 65 years. It is a tradition that transcends generations, offering a truly unique way to celebrate and honour God.

We too are concerned about the lowered attendance of the surrounding parishes, however enacting restrictions on what has become a staple in so many Polish-speaking Catholics lives surely cannot be the way. Many of the Franciscan Kaszuby Chapel's attendees simply are not able to attend during the proposed 2 week window of time during scouts season. Many of us travel several hours from Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal, Ottawa, and London (to name a few cities) and make entire summer plans around our ability to attend Mass and participate in the Christian community that the open-air Franciscan Chapel facilitates.

This 65 year old tradition has served generations as an avenue to strengthen and nurture our communion with God and community. It would be a terrible shame and waste for it to be dissolved as a consequence of the assertion that disbanding its already limited seasonal activity is necessary for the survival of its surrounding parishes.

We would like to ask you to reconsider, so that the Franciscan Kaszuby community may continue to foster the spiritual needs of current and future generations of Polish-speaking, Canadian Christians. May peace and the love of Christ be with you.

Sincerely,