

### **Bishop Michael Fleming**

**Vicar Apostolic of Newfoundland**

- (1830-1847)

**First Bishop of the new diocese of St. John's**

- (1847-1850)

The Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist is the story of Bishop Michael Fleming's persistence and faith, supported by the hard work, generosity and the collective sacrifice of the people St. John's and surrounding communities in the mid 19th century.

Excavation of the site commenced on May 27, 1839. There was no lack of workers, as all faiths and classes joined in the work, all helping to unload cargoes and to haul stone from the wharves to the building site.

On September 9, 1855, Newfoundland finally had a monument of worship built by persistence and perseverance.

### **National Historic Figure**

In recognition of his outstanding and lasting contribution to Canadian history, Bishop Michael Fleming will be named a person of National Historic Significance on September 9<sup>th</sup> 2005.

### **God's House**

The Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist is a comfortable and welcoming dwelling place of the Lord. It is "God's House," as we so fondly tell our children and grand children.

Within these walls we have experienced life's defining moments. Think back to the precious snapshot of Baptismal waters blessing the forehead of a baby; that first glimpse of a glowing bride; the sad but faith-filled farewell to a loved one; and most of all our Sunday gatherings for Eucharist. These are but a few of the cherished memories we desire for our children and their children.

Like our own homes, this "House of Worship" needs care and well-planned upkeep. Every year, a significant amount of money is spent to maintain the physical church. It is an enormous task to preserve the beauty that is most precious to us.

### **The Bishop Michael Fleming Endowment Fund**

In recognition of his lifetime achievements the Basilica Foundation has established the

### ***Bishop Michael Fleming Endowment Fund.***

This permanent endowment will provide a source of funding to preserve, maintain and restore the Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and adjacent historic properties.

To help us endow the ***Bishop Michael Fleming Endowment Fund***, we are asking for the generosity from people like you in our community. Only the interest from the invested funds will be used to maintain and enhance our support for the restoration and preservation of the Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Our prayer is that future generations will find their second home within these walls.

### **What the Bishop Michael Fleming Endowment will Fund**

The ***Endowment*** will support the following projects:

- Restore 28 stained glass windows
- Interior/exterior masonry and marble work
- Clean and restore statues
- Repair main entrance steps
- Plaster and decorative painting restoration
- Restore and reinstall West Tower Bells.

**How you can be a part of preserving the Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist**

All are welcome to participate in making a lasting commitment to the church building.

The ***Bishop Michael Fleming Endowment Fund*** can be funded by cash, in memoriams, securities, real estate - almost any kind of appreciated assets. The ***Endowment*** can also be funded with future gifts through wills, bequests, trusts and gift annuities. \*

Your gift can be made in honour or memory of a loved one, as a 'family' contribution, as a business contribution, as a personal gift, or anonymously.

All gifts will be receipted promptly and will be recognized in an appropriate manner.

***"The secret of a Cathedral is an expression of the unity of believers." In its totality, a Cathedral is a symphony of praise to Almighty God! - Pope Paul VI***

**BASILICA**  
FOUNDATION INC.

The Basilica Foundation Inc. is a registered Canadian charity and is committed to raising funds that will only be used to preserve, maintain and restore the Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, and adjacent historic properties.

Contact Information

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Charitable Registration No. 8715 22991 RR 0001

\*(Please consult a lawyer and/or financial advisor when considering a Planned Gift)

***The***  
***Bishop Michael Fleming***  
***Endowment Fund***



**BASILICA**  
**FOUNDATION**  
**INC.**