



MEDIA ADVISORY

260 Voice Choir, Historical Displays, Street Closure as St. Michael's Cathedral Celebrates Restoration Milestone – February 5, 2013

TORONTO (February 5, 2013) – Find out how the past can be preserved while preparing for the future at St. Michael's Cathedral. On February 5, 2013, those involved in one of the most unique, challenging and complex construction projects in Toronto's history will gather to share their stories while the spiritual leadership of the church gathers in thanksgiving.

Since the mid-1800s, local and global pilgrims have visited the mother church of the Archdiocese of Toronto, St. Michael's Cathedral. Over the last 18 months, construction has been underway to restore one of Toronto's greatest landmarks. As the scaffolding on the front facade of the church begins to come down over the next several weeks, the Catholic community celebrates the next chapter in the transformation of this historic icon.

Commencing at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, steps from St. Michael's Cathedral, the event will begin with a reception and presentation featuring interactive exhibits, highlighting the extensive restoration work completed to date as well as exciting plans moving forward. Guests will be able to touch stone and statues, view time-lapse photography and witness the future vision for the crypt beneath the church while posing questions to the architects and construction team involved.

Following the presentation, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto and spiritual shepherd of the Greater Toronto Area's 1.8 million Catholics will lead a short prayer service across the street, in front of St. Michael's Cathedral. Music will be provided by the entire student body (260) of the award winning St. Michael's Choir School before blessing a newly commissioned statue of St. Michael that will be elevated above the entrance to the cathedral, secured for years to come. Bond St. in front of St. Michael's Cathedral will be closed to help facilitate this historic milestone.

The Archdiocese of Toronto is Canada's largest diocese, encompassing 42 municipalities stretching from Toronto north to Georgian Bay and from Oshawa to Mississauga. It is home to 1.8 million Catholics and 225 churches, with Mass celebrated in more than 30 different languages each week.

When: Tuesday, February 5, 2013

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Media Tour for exhibit area (Li Ka Shing Institute – 209 Victoria St. 2nd floor)

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Guests visit Exhibit displays, question and answer session

1:00 p.m. – Formal remarks from Cardinal Collins, multi-media display

1:40 p.m. – Music (feat. Choir School), prayer service and blessing of St. Michael statue outside St. Michael's Cathedral (65 Bond St.)

Media Availability:

- Representatives from the Cathedral Architectural Team including Terry White, Principal, +VG, The Ventin Group as well as members of the Cathedral Construction Team including Marc Ferguson, Senior Project Director, Buttcon Ltd. (11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
- St. Michael's Cathedral Rector, Father Michael Busch (11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
- Cardinal Thomas Collins (12:30 p.m.– 2 p.m.)

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