



**MEDIA ADVISORY – For Immediate Release**

**Archdiocese of Toronto Catholics Celebrate 175 Years  
-1000+ pilgrims converge on historic Martyrs' Shrine for Mass, reflections-**

MIDLAND, ON (September 8, 2017) More than 1,000 Catholics will gather for a pilgrimage and Mass on Saturday, September 9 to celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Archdiocese of Toronto at the historic Martyrs' Shrine in Midland.

Catholic parishioners will arrive by the busload from several towns and cities throughout the archdiocese to join Cardinal Thomas Collins in a daylong commemoration of the founding of what is today Canada's largest diocese (church territory headed by a bishop). Originally part of the Diocese of Kingston, on December 17, 1841, Pope Gregory XVI formally created the Diocese of Toronto and named Michael Power its first bishop. The Archdiocese of Toronto has been marking this milestone with events throughout the year, culminating in this pilgrimage. Cardinal Collins will also celebrate four smaller regional Masses at historic parishes over the next month.

**Schedule of Events**

**Place:** Martyrs' Shrine (16163 Highway 12 West, Midland, ON)

**10:30 - 11:30 a.m.** – Pilgrims pray the Rosary (prayers in five languages)

- Historic reflection on the significant roles of Bishop Power and the Canadian Martyrs
- Blessing with Holy Relics

**11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.** – Guided procession to Martyrs' Gravesite

- Eucharistic Adoration with guided reflections
- Confessions
- Private devotions (Stations of the Cross, walk the grounds)
- Lunch

**2:30 p.m.** – Mass (led by Cardinal Collins, with 1000+ attendance) at the Polish Altar

**MEDIA AVAILABILITY: 1:30 - 2 p.m.** – Cardinal Collins available for media interviews

***Media are welcome to join us for any or all parts of the day.***

More information on the Archdiocese of Toronto 175<sup>th</sup> celebrations can be accessed by visiting: <https://www.archtoronto.org/175>. The Archdiocese of Toronto is Canada's largest diocese, stretching from Toronto north to Georgian Bay and from Oshawa to Mississauga.

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