



MEDIA ADVISORY

Statement of the Archdiocese of Toronto on the election of the Pope

It is with deep gratitude that the Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Toronto in union with our Archbishop, Cardinal Thomas Collins, extends its sincere congratulations and prayers to the new pope chosen to lead our universal Church, His Holiness, Pope Francis I, who was elected earlier today through the prayerful reflection and deliberation of the Cardinal electors of the world under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We pray for the spiritual strength, wisdom and humble example of our new Holy Father, the successor of St. Peter. As Catholics united in this apostolic faith in the many diverse parish communities within the Archdiocese of Toronto, we look forward to growing in our witness to Jesus Christ under the leadership of Pope Francis I. Through his ministry of sanctification, teaching and pastoral governance we are confident that as the Successor of St. Peter he will guide the Church for years to come.

We are also grateful for the careful discernment of the College of Cardinals and in particular the participation of Cardinal Collins and the Canadian Cardinals in the election of Pope Francis I. Their leadership inspired by the Holy Spirit has helped to guide the way forward for the Roman Catholic Church in the years ahead. We pray for the Cardinals as they prepare for the Holy Father's Inauguration of Petrine Ministry and their return to their respective homes for the coming Holy Week.

The Most Rev. William McGrattan, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Central Pastoral Region, will present this statement to the media at St. Michael's Cathedral at 4:00 p.m. There will be an opportunity for questions at that time.

The Archdiocese of Toronto's Office of Public Relations & Communications has created a special online space: www.archtoronto.org/pope where visitors can offer messages of gratitude to Pope Benedict XVI, learn more about the conclave process and view profiles of the 115 cardinals that will participate in the 2013 conclave.

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.

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