



MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cardinal Thomas Collins Releases Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of Toronto *Spiritual roadmap will chart course for Canada's largest Catholic community*

TORONTO (February 1, 2013) – The Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto, under the spiritual leadership of Cardinal Thomas Collins, has released its pastoral plan, providing a spiritual roadmap that will help chart the course for 225 parishes and 1.8 million Catholics throughout the Greater Toronto Area for years to come.

The product of extensive consultation over the last several years, the Archdiocese of Toronto's Pastoral Plan identifies five key priorities for Canada's largest diocese: Parish Life, Vocations, Catholic Outreach, Evangelization and St. Michael's Cathedral as sign of the church's mission. The vision also recognizes restoration and redevelopment opportunities for the Cathedral Block, in the heart of downtown Toronto.

Cardinal Collins spoke of the importance of the plan: *"Our pastoral plan strives to engage every Catholic in the Archdiocese of Toronto, to enhance the incredible work underway in our churches as well as expanding the diverse ways in which our faith communities strengthen our cities and province. The plan will help guide us as we redouble our efforts, in love and faith-filled service."*

The pastoral plan will be officially launched in 225 churches throughout the archdiocese on the weekend of February 2/3, with 175,000 copies of a plan summary distributed to parishioners. An online webpage, www.archtoronto.org/pastoral, has been created to include: translations of the summary version in 30 languages; the full plan in seven languages; as well as helpful resources to assist the Catholic community in additional reflection, prayer and implementation of the plan. A social media campaign (hashtag #catholicplanTO) will also provide an opportunity for interaction and feedback in the days ahead.

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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