



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA ADVISORY:**

**Archdiocese of Toronto To Host 2014 Steubenville Youth Conference**

*Dynamic Faith Encounter To Draw Thousands To Toronto, July 4-6, 2014*

TORONTO (July 23, 2013) One of the most dynamic faith encounters for young people in North America will be making its way to Toronto next summer. The Steubenville Youth Conference will take place in Toronto, July 4-6, 2014 in the heart of the city, drawing thousands of young people together to discover the richness of the Catholic Church through prayer, praise and reflection.

Originating with an initial gathering of 1,000 young people on its Ohio campus in 1976, the Steubenville Conferences have expanded to diverse locations over the past three decades. This summer, more than 40,000 teens will participate in 18 different youth conferences across North America, including Halifax, Nova Scotia. Steubenville 2014 will be the first conference held in Canada west of Nova Scotia with participants expected to make their way to Toronto from throughout Canada and the United States.

Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, commented on the opportunity to host Steubenville 2014 in the country's largest diocese:

"The Steubenville Conference provides a tremendous opportunity to reach the youth of our archdiocese in a joyful and creative faith-filled setting. Our pastoral plan speaks to the importance of engaging our young people: this is one very tangible way to do so. My prayer is that they will join in this experience and, together, we can help strengthen those active in their faith and introduce others to Jesus Christ, our teacher and friend. "

The weekend conference includes inspiring talks, dynamic music and opportunities for prayer and dialogue led by internationally renowned speakers, musicians and clergy. Father Frank Portelli, Director of the Archdiocese of Toronto's Office of Catholic Youth, will lead an organizing team, enlisting volunteers and supporters from across the archdiocese. Additional details will be released this fall through local parishes and numerous online resources.

The Archdiocese of Toronto is Canada's largest diocese, stretching from Toronto north to Georgian Bay and from Oshawa to Mississauga. It is home to 1.9 million Catholics and 225 churches, with Mass celebrated in more than 30 languages each week.

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