



Archdiocese
of Toronto

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MEDIA ADVISORY – For Immediate Distribution

Toronto-area Catholics respond to Philippines disaster

Cardinal Thomas Collins urges prayer and charity

TORONTO (November 11, 2013) – Toronto-area Catholics are responding to the humanitarian crisis in the Philippines with prayer and practical aid following the catastrophic effects of Typhoon Haiyan on November 8.

In response to news that thousands are dead, more than 600,000 have been forced from their homes and an estimated 9.5 million people are in need of aid across nine provinces, the Archdiocese of Toronto is accepting financial contributions for humanitarian relief efforts through its network of parishes and its online portal at www.archtoronto.org.

“We offer our prayers as well as practical assistance to the people of the Philippines at this time,” said Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto. “Disasters of this magnitude affect people around the world. As victims in the Philippines struggle to recover from the devastation of the storm, we recognize that thousands of people in our local community are desperately awaiting word about the well-being of friends and family. In addition to our financial efforts, we join together in prayer to support all who are affected.”

Relief workers from the official Catholic relief agency on the ground, NASSA-Caritas Philippines, say the victims most need emergency shelter, water and sanitation, household relief items, potable water and toilets as relief operations gear up.

Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:

- Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website: www.archtoronto.org
- By phone through the Development Office – 416-934-3411
- Through the parish, making cheques payable to:

Name of Parish – Philippines Typhoon Haiyan – Humanitarian Relief

The Canadian government has announced it will match donations to the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund made by Canadians between Nov. 9 and Dec. 9. Contributions made through the Archdiocese of Toronto for this relief effort will be eligible for the matching program.

The Archdiocese of Toronto is one of the most diverse dioceses in North America, serving as the spiritual home to 1.9 million Catholics, celebrating Mass in more than 30 languages each week at 225 parishes.

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