



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

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**MEDIA ADVISORY – For Immediate Distribution**

## **Cardinal Thomas Collins to preside at November 15 Mass to support Philippines typhoon victims**

TORONTO (November 14, 2013) – The Archbishop of Toronto, Cardinal Thomas Collins, will preside at Mass this Friday in solidarity with all those affected by Typhoon Haiyan, the catastrophic storm that struck the Philippines on November 8.

Mass will take place on Friday, November 15, 2013 at 5 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church (2565 Bathurst St.) a spiritual and community hub for many local Filipino Catholics.

Latest reports indicate that thousands are dead, more than 500,000 people remain displaced and 11.5 million people have been impacted by the storm. Earlier this week, Cardinal Collins commented on the devastation:

*“We offer our prayers as well as practical assistance to the people of the Philippines at this time. 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.”*

Faith-based partners will work in the short and long term to provide assistance on the ground. Caritas Philippines, the official Catholic relief agency locally, has already distributed more than 20,000 family relief kits with more on the way. Emergency shelter, water and sanitation, household relief items, potable water and toilets remain in demand.

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

- Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website: [www.archtoronto.org](http://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

All donations collected through our network of churches or online at [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org) by December 9, 2013 will be matched by the Federal Government of Canada.

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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