



Archdiocese
of Toronto

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POPE FRANCIS APPOINTS TORONTO AUXILIARY BISHOP WILLIAM MCGRATTAN TO LEAD PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE

TORONTO (8 April 2014) – Pope Francis has appointed Toronto Auxiliary Bishop William McGrattan as the next Bishop of Peterborough. Since 2010, Bishop McGrattan has served the Archdiocese of Toronto, assisting Cardinal Thomas Collins in providing pastoral leadership for Catholics in the Greater Toronto Area. Bishop McGrattan commented on his appointment:

“I am humbled by the confidence entrusted to me by Pope Francis as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough. I wish to express my gratitude to all those whom I have encountered in my ministry over the past four years as auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Toronto. I thank Cardinal Collins for his guidance and counsel, the hundreds of clergy and religious who serve so faithfully each day and the dedicated parishioners of the archdiocese. It has been inspiring to witness faith alive and at work in one of the most diverse faith communities in North America.

I very much look forward to meeting the people of the Diocese of Peterborough and serving as their shepherd in the years ahead. I ask for your prayers, as I will pray for you. Together, we are called to evangelize and share the joy of our faith with all those we encounter on the journey.”

Cardinal Thomas Collins responded to news of the appointment: “We thank Bishop McGrattan for his tremendous efforts, serving the people of the Archdiocese of Toronto so faithfully since his arrival in 2010. Of particular note are his guidance in preparation and implementation of the Pastoral Plan of the archdiocese, his leadership in the central region and his support of our ethnic pastoral councils and lay movements. While he will be dearly missed, we pray for him as he embarks on a new assignment, offering his many gifts and talents to the faithful of the Diocese of Peterborough.”

Bishop William McGrattan was born in London, Ontario in 1956, the oldest of two children. He entered St. Peter’s Seminary in 1982 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1987, serving in parish ministry in Chatham, Ontario. Father McGrattan studied in Rome and earned his Licentiate in Fundamental Moral Theology from the Pontificio Università Gregoriana, Rome in 1992. He returned to London, joining the faculty of St. Peter’s Seminary, teaching theology courses

and eventually serving as Vice Rector and Dean of Theology. From 1997-2009, he served as Rector of St. Peter's Seminary. In November 2009, he was appointed an Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto by Pope Benedict XVI. His episcopal ordination took place on January 12, 2010.

In the Archdiocese of Toronto, Bishop McGrattan has provided pastoral leadership for the 71 parishes of the central region of the archdiocese, also serving as Vicar for Ethnic Pastoral Councils and Lay Movements. He also serves on numerous committees at both the provincial and national level.

As one of the most diverse dioceses in the world, the Archdiocese of Toronto is home to 1.9 million Catholics with Mass celebrated each week in over 30 different languages. More than 800 diocesan and religious priests serve the Catholic community in 225 parishes across the archdiocese.

Information regarding the installation of Bishop McGrattan in Peterborough will be announced in the coming days.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Note: Bishop McGrattan will travel to Peterborough and be available to the media on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 from 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon at the Chancery Office - 350 Hunter Street West. Please use the media contact above to schedule an interview.