



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Pope Francis Appoints Archdiocese of Toronto
Auxiliary Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick as Bishop of Antigonish, Nova Scotia**

TORONTO (18 December 2019) – Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick as the new Bishop of Antigonish, Nova Scotia. At present, His Excellency is an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto, an appointment made by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in 2012.

Bishop Kirkpatrick commented on his appointment:

“I am humbled by the trust placed in me by the Holy Father to serve the faithful of the Diocese of Antigonish as their shepherd. I look forward to meeting the people from many diverse backgrounds who call this beautiful part of Canada home. I know there have been significant challenges on the journey for the community - with God’s love and our support for one another, we can face the joys and struggles together, reflecting the face of Jesus to those we encounter. I ask for your prayers and be assured of mine as I prepare for this new chapter of ministry.”

Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, offered words of appreciation and encouragement upon learning of the appointment:

“We will miss Bishop Kirkpatrick in the Archdiocese of Toronto where he served with joy and faithfulness since 2012. We are grateful for his extensive contributions and pastoral outreach to so many, especially in the Northern Pastoral Region. As Bishop of Antigonish, he will be a shepherd among the people, bringing the light of hope to share in abundance. I invite our entire faith community to join me in offering our prayers as he prepares for his new mission entrusted to him by the Holy Father.”

Wayne Kirkpatrick was born June 5, 1957 in St. Catharines, Ontario. He studied at the University of Waterloo, St. Jerome’s College, earning a Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy) before entering St. Augustine’s Seminary in 1980. He completed a Masters of Divinity and was ordained to the priesthood on September 1, 1984. He also studied at St. Paul University in Ottawa, receiving a Licentiate (Masters) in Canon Law in June 1990.

As a priest, Fr. Kirkpatrick served the Diocese of St. Catharines in diverse roles following his ordination, including 22 years in diocesan administration, concurrently serving in parish ministry as a pastor for 17 years. He served as Moderator of the Curia, Chancellor and Judicial Vicar of the diocese, as well as Rector of the cathedral. Fr. Kirkpatrick was named a Prelate of Honour by Saint John Paul II in June 1999, a Papal Honour that bestows the title of “Monsignor” on priests recognized for their service to the church.

Consecrated as a bishop in July 2012, Bishop Kirkpatrick served as an Auxiliary Bishop, with responsibility for the Northern Region of the Archdiocese of Toronto. He also served as Episcopal Vicar for Religious institutes of men and women in the archdiocese and Episcopal Vicar for the Francophone community. Since 2014, he has served as President of St. Augustine's Seminary, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Toronto School of Theology. An honorary trustee of the York Catholic District School board, Bishop Kirkpatrick has also served as a member of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario Social Affairs Commission, Member of the National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee and Co-Chair of the Roman Catholic / United Church Dialogue.

His Episcopal motto "Abide in me", references John 15: 4-5: "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches."

Information regarding the installation of Bishop Kirkpatrick as the 10th Bishop of Antigonish will be announced in the coming days.

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

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