



MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY – For Immediate Release

***Final Mass for Cardinal Thomas Collins
as he retires as Archbishop of Toronto***
Archbishop has served faithfully in Toronto since 2007

TORONTO (March 19, 2023) – His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins, 76, will celebrate his final Sunday Mass as Archbishop of Toronto at noon today (Sunday, March 19) at St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica before he enters his retirement later this week. The Mass will be available online at <http://stmichaelscathedral.com/live> and on the Cathedral Basilica and archdiocesan social media channels. It will also be broadcast live on Salt & Light Catholic TV.

Who: Cardinal Thomas Collins, outgoing Archbishop of Toronto

What: Final Mass as Archbishop of Toronto followed by reception with parishioners

Where: St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica – 65 Bond St.

When: Sunday, March 19, 2023 – 12 noon

Thomas Christopher Collins was born and raised in Guelph, Ontario. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 5, 1973 in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Hamilton. In 1997, Collins was appointed as Bishop of Saint Paul, Alberta. Two years later, he was named the Archbishop of Edmonton. In December 2006, he was appointed as Archbishop of Toronto, and installed in January 2007. On January 6, 2012, the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI announced his appointment to the College of Cardinals. He participated in the 2013 conclave to elect Pope Francis. His retirement follows a process initiated by Cardinal Collins, who offered his resignation as archbishop on his 75th birthday (January 16, 2022), the age at which all bishops are required to submit their resignation. As a member of the College of Cardinals, he may participate in a conclave until his 80th birthday and remain part of any Vatican committees.

Upon retirement, he will reside within the archdiocese and will be referred to as His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop-Emeritus of Toronto. Archbishop-designate Francis Leo (pronounced Lay-oh) will succeed Collins upon installation at Mass on Saturday, March 25, 2023.

The Archdiocese of Toronto, Canada’s largest diocese, is one of the most diverse faith communities in North America, serving as the spiritual home to approximately two million Catholics with close to 400 priests celebrating Mass in more than 30 languages each week at 225 parishes.

- 30 -

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