



MEDIA ADVISORY – For immediate release

6 Papal Honours Awarded for Faithful Service

TORONTO (November 30, 2023) The Most Rev. Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto, will present Papal Honours this evening at a ceremony recognizing faithful service to the Catholic Church. Awards will be conferred as part of the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica.

Papal Honours provide an opportunity to recognize individuals who have exhibited the highest standards and values in making significant contributions to the Catholic Church. The conferral of Papal Honours dates back many centuries, with each award having its own history and relevance. All honours are granted by the Supreme Pontiff himself, following the nomination of worthy individuals by the local Church. We congratulate the following recipients:

Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great

James Milway – Mr. Milway has been deeply involved in the Catholic community throughout his life. Most notably, he served as Chancellor of Temporal Affairs for the Archdiocese of Toronto for 10 years, which included the challenging period of global pandemic.

Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross

Michael Fullan – Mr. Fullan served as Executive Director of Catholic Charities for 29 years. Prior to retirement, he championed new initiatives to serve vulnerable seniors, with a particular emphasis on safe long-term care and comprehensive palliative care.

John Gennaro – Mr. Gennaro has faithfully served the archdiocese for decades through his involvement with numerous organizations including Serra International, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Joseph Mancinelli – a former Catholic School Board Trustee, Mr. Mancinelli has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for more than 40 years. He has given countless hours to numerous charitable causes serving the poor and marginalized.

Benemerenti Medal

Anthony Primerano – Mr. Primerano has been deeply engaged in the Catholic community, most recently leading an initiative to honour labourers, following the example of St. Joseph the Worker.

Silvija Vigeon (in absentia) – as a 35-year employee of the Archdiocese of Toronto, Ms. Vigeon supported senior church leaders including Gerald Emmett Cardinal Carter and Thomas Cardinal Collins.

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. The archdiocese stretches from Toronto north to Georgian Bay and from Oshawa to Mississauga.

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