

The President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), the Most Reverend Pierre Morissette, Bishop of Saint-Jérôme, will represent the CCCC at an annual meeting in the Holy Land, January 8-13, 2011. He will be accompanied by Mr. Carl Héту, National Secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) Canada.

Each year Bishops from Europe and North America meet with Church leaders in the Holy Land to learn more about the present situation in the region and to show solidarity with the local Church. The theme of the 2011 meeting is "Building Bridges of Peace". This year's program consists of meetings, discussions, panel presentations and activities on key issues including the needs of Christians in the Holy Land, religious freedom, ecumenism, interreligious dialogue with Judaism and Islam, Catholic education, the mission and challenges of consecrated life and pilgrimages.

The International Coordination of Episcopal Conferences in Support of the Church in the Holy Land began in Jerusalem in 1998 at the request of the Holy See. It involves representatives from Conferences of Bishops in Europe and North America who also meet with the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land (AOCTS).