

CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

Events:



2013 Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous People

The National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on December 12 every year, on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. The Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council celebrates this day of prayer, solidarity and reconciliation by issuing an annual message honouring Indigenous people who have been inspired by their Catholic faith. The 2013 Message was on ?ehtseo Ereya, a Dene prophet who preached the good news of Jesus.

Special national collection to aid the population of the Philippines

The CCCB joined with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) to prepare a response and a plan of continuing aid for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. The CCCB asked that a special national collection be held before December 9, 2013 in the dioceses and parishes of Canada to support the massive relief effort to aid the population of the Philippines in desperate need arising from this natural disaster.



350th anniversary of the parish Notre-Dame de Québec

On December 8, 2013, Pope Francis extended his best wishes and blessing for the opening of the jubilee year marking the 350th anniversary of the parish Notre-Dame de Québec. The first Catholic parish canonically erected in North America outside Spanish territories, it is today Quebec City's cathedral parish. The celebrations began with the official opening of a Holy Door, presided by the Most Reverend Gérald Cyprien Lacroix, Archbishop of Québec and Primate of the Church in Canada. The Holy Door, a gift of the Holy See, is the seventh in the world. There are four in Rome, one in Ars-sur-Formans, France, and one in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, making this the first outside Europe. Visitors can pass through the Holy Door for the duration of the

jubilee year.

“We unite ourselves spiritually to the Church in North America which today remembers the foundation of the first parish 350 years ago: Notre-Dame de Québec. Let us give thanks for the journey that has been made from that moment, especially for the saints and martyrs who have rendered that land so fruitful. With all my heart I bless all the faithful who are celebrating this jubilee,” said the Holy Father.

Holy Land Co-ordination completes visit in support of local Church and the cause of peace

The Christian community of Gaza was the focal point of this year's visit to the Holy Land by Bishops from across Europe, North America and South Africa in support of the local Christian communities and the pastoral work of the Church at the service of all in the Holy Land. CCCB President Archbishop Paul-André Durocher represented our Conference.



The visiting Bishops make up the Holy Land Co-ordination, mandated by the Holy See, focusing on prayer, pilgrimage and advocacy for justice and peace. The aim is to act in solidarity with the Christian community there and to share in the pastoral life of the local Church as it experiences intense political and socio-economic pressure. This year's Co-ordination met from 12 to 16 January.

In their final communique, the Bishops called for an urgent resolution to the situation, describing Gaza as a man-made disaster.



The Archbishop of Québec elevated to the College of Cardinals

The Most Reverend Gérald Cyprien Lacroix, Archbishop of Québec and Primate of the Church in Canada, was elevated to the College of Cardinals during the Consistory that took place in Vatican City on February 22, 2014. Archbishop Lacroix became the eighth Cardinal in the history of the Archdiocese of Québec and the 17th Cardinal in the history of the Catholic Church in Canada. Canada now has four Cardinals. The three others are His Eminence Jean-Claude Cardinal Turcotte, Archbishop Emeritus of Montreal, His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, and His Eminence Marc Cardinal Ouellet, Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops and former

Archbishop of Québec.

125th anniversary of the Pontifical Canadian College

The College's 125th anniversary year was launched in March 2013 with the visit of the Governor-General of Canada, the Honorable David Johnston, who was in Rome for the inauguration of Pope Francis' pontificate. The celebrations marking this anniversary year closed in June 2014 with a special Mass at the Church of the Canadian Martyrs in Rome. His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, and His Eminence Gérald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix, Archbishop of Québec and Primate of the Church in Canada, both officiated.





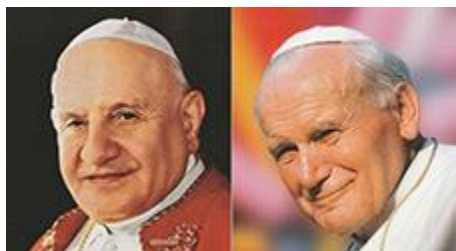
National Week for Life and the Family

The second National Week for Life and the Family was celebrated across Canada May 11-18, 2014, in accordance with the plans, priorities and resources of each diocese. As agreed by our Permanent Council and Executive Committee, the Conference again offered dioceses, parishes and other non-profit groups possible resources and options for planning and organizing local activities. This year, the English-language material was prepared by the Family Ministry Office of the Diocese of Hamilton, and the French-language materials by the diocesan committee for family ministry of the Archdiocese of Gatineau.

The theme was “Families united in the joy of the Lord”. The dates for the 2014 National Week for Life and the Family coincided in part with those for the 2014 *Semaine québécoise des familles*, and also with the United Nations World Day of Families, May 15.

International Conference on Human Trafficking

The second International Conference on Human Trafficking took place April 9-10, 2014, at the Holy See. Our President, the Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau, represented the Bishops of Canada. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) also sent a representative, Inspector André Gauthier of the International Liaison Coordination Center - Human Smuggling Project Investigations. This International Conference, under the responsibility of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and organized by the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, gathered Church authorities and representatives of police services from over 20 countries for two days of discussions on “Combating Human Trafficking: Church and law enforcement in partnership”.



Canonizations of Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II

The CCCB was officially represented by its President, the Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau, and Vice President, the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., Bishop of Hamilton at the canonizations of Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II. Other Bishops also present at the April 27, 2014, canonizations included His Eminence Gérald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix, Archbishop of Québec and Primate of the Church in Canada; His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto; the Most Reverend Christian Lépine, Archbishop of Montreal; the Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines; and the Most Reverend Anthony Tonnos, Bishop emeritus of Hamilton.

Exposition on the 1984 Apostolic Journey of Pope John Paul II to Canada

On May 15, 2014, under the honorary presidency of the Most Reverend André Gazaille, Bishop of Nicolet, the Musée des religions du monde in Nicolet, Quebec, launched a special exhibit on the pastoral visit of Pope John Paul II across Canada in 1984. Among those participating were representatives of the exposition's major sponsor, Radio-Canada (the CBC French-language network), together with Bishop Gazaille and other guests, including CCCB Archivist Mr. Bruce Henry, who represented General Secretary Msgr. Patrick Powers, P.H.



Titled *1984... je me souviens* ("1984 ... I remember"), the exhibit is open to the public until September 2015. Our Conference collaborated in the preparation of the exposition by providing access to a number of archival photographs, and by agreeing that the 1984 Popemobile be transported from the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa. The Popemobile, which the Holy Father used in travelling to a number of the major gatherings across the country, is a major focus of the exhibit.



Canonization of two new Saints -- François de Laval and Marie of the Incarnation (April 3, 2014)

"It is with great joy and thanksgiving that the Bishops of Canada welcome today's proclamation by Pope Francis that the Universal Church recognizes Bishop François de Laval and Mother Marie of the Incarnation as Saints.... We are grateful to God for raising up in our midst these two wonderful examples of holiness and service. We thank Pope Francis for this great gift to the

Church in Canada, and to all the people of our nation."

60th anniversary of the Canadian Religious Conference

On May 30, 2014, the CCCB congratulated the Canadian Religious Conference on its 60th anniversary: "As the vision and renewal of Vatican II continue to unfold, we ask you, particularly at this moment in history, to help each of our diocesan Churches, and the Universal Church, in appreciating, deepening, and even rediscovering, the sense of what it means to be the household of God. We need you as witnesses and facilitators in how to be 'the family of believers', blessed with 'unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind' (1 Peter 2.17b, 3.8)."

New section on euthanasia and assisted suicide on CCCB website

In view of the current debate on euthanasia and assisted suicide, our Conference posted a new section on its Life and Family webpage. The purpose is to help make available and share resources on this important question which is so much in the news across the country. The webpage provides links to articles in the regular and specialized media. There are also links to the presentation (in French only) by the Assembly of Québec Catholic Bishops on the Quebec government's Bill 52, "An Act respecting end-of-life care", as well as to resources from the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF).



Cardinal Collins appointed to Commission of Cardinals overseeing the Institute for the Works of Religion

On January 15, 2014, the Holy Father replaced four of the five Cardinals who were members of the Commission of Cardinals responsible for overseeing the Institute for the Works of Religion (IOR, which is commonly though inaccurately referred to as the "Vatican Bank"). His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, was among the four new Cardinals named to the Commission. Cardinal Collins is also a member of the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Bishops of Alberta and Northwest Territories issue letter for the Edmonton national event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

On February 24, 2014, on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories, the Most Reverend Richard Smith, Archbishop of Edmonton, released a letter of invitation to all the Catholics of the Western dioceses in advance of the national Truth and Reconciliation event that took place in Edmonton, March 27-30, 2014. In their letter, the seven Bishops noted they were adding their "voice to those of the Catholic Bishops and leaders of religious communities across Canada who have already expressed words of apology and regret." The Bishops of Alberta and the NWT indicated that while some students benefited from the experience and education they received, "we acknowledge with deep pain that others speak of their experience at Residential Schools in terms of pain, suffering, and lengthy alienation from family, local community, language and culture. Some also speak of being subjected to sexual and physical abuse at these schools."



Four Canadian Bishops appointed to dicasteries of the Holy See

On March 29, 2014, the Holy Father appointed His Eminence Marc Cardinal Ouellet, Archbishop Emeritus of Quebec City, and the Most Reverend John Corriveau, O.F.M.Cap., Bishop of Nelson, as members of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life. Pope Francis also appointed the Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau and President of our Conference, as a member of the Pontifical Council for Culture. As well, the Most Reverend Daniel J. Bohan, Archbishop of Regina, was confirmed as a member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue until the completion of his current term.



70th anniversary of Canadian Council of Churches

During the Governing Board meeting of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC), held in Ottawa, May 14-16, 2014, our Conference commemorated the 70th anniversary of the CCC by presenting its President Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Champ a framed picture of CCC General Secretary the Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton meeting Pope Francis at celebrations in Rome marking the 2014 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Archbishop Miller and Bishop Plouffe visit the Philippines with Development and Peace delegation

A delegation of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP), from August 16 - 26, 2014, visited the projects supported by CCODP in Philippine communities severely affected by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. The delegation included: the Most Reverend J. Michael Miller, C.S.B., Archbishop of Vancouver; the Most Reverend Jean-Louis Plouffe, Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie; Mr. Pat Kennedy, President of the National Council of Development and Peace; Mr. Arthur Peters, Executive Director of Share Life of the Archdiocese of Toronto; Mrs. Fran Lucas, National Chairperson of Community Life of the Catholic Women's League of Canada; Sister Nida Fe Chavez, General Treasurer of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Toronto; and Dr. Patrick Fletcher, CCCB Senior Advisor for Theology and Social Doctrine. The group was accompanied by three staff from Development and Peace: Executive Director Mr. Michael Casey; Programs Officer Mr. Jess Agustin; and Communications Officer Ms. Kelly Di Domenico.



Statements and letters



Tragic fire in L'Isle-Verte: CCCB President writes to the Archbishop of Rimouski (January 24, 2014)

"I am deeply affected by the sad news of the terrible fire in L'Isle-Verte Wednesday night that devastated the Résidence du Havre. The thought of so many elderly people dying is a disaster that fills me with great sadness. I know I speak in the name of all the Bishops of Canada, and all the faithful of our dioceses, in conveying to you and your faithful our profound sympathy and sincerest condolences."

Letter of prayer and solidarity for the people of Ukraine by the CCCB President (January 24, 2014)

Our President, the Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau, sent a letter of solidarity and prayer to His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and to Archbishop Lawrence Huculak, O.S.B.M., Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in Canada. In his letter, Archbishop Durocher wrote: "I ask you to assure the people of Ukraine that Canadian Catholics and their Bishops are united with you in prayer and solidarity. We plead for the guarantee of all rights and liberties in Ukraine, particularly the right to life and dignity, freedom of conscience and religion, and liberty of expression and self-government."

Letter to the Holy Father (March 12, 2014)

“One year ago today, the Bishops of Canada along with all the faithful of our great land saw you appear for the first time on the balcony of Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome. The simplicity of your manner and your words, the humility with which you invited us to pray for you, and your warm smile quickly gained our affection. In the following days, we learned to know you in greater depth. Already, we heard certain key words: mercy, poverty, periphery, joy, encounter... Jesus. Already, we witnessed how you lived out those key words: residing with your collaborators, washing the feet of young people in a prison, visiting the refugees at Lampedusa. In a few months, your election had become for us a symbol of a new kairos in the Church, a decisive moment of renewal and commitment.”

CCCB President writes to Prime Minister Harper

On Holy Thursday, April 17, 2014, in preparation for Passover and Easter, CCCB President, Archbishop Paul-André Durocher, wrote Prime Minister Stephen Harper about a number of CCCB concerns on “issues and places where humanity is suffering and at risk”. In his introduction, Archbishop Durocher noted that “our times are filled with serious challenges, including the economy, employment, the environment, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and personal and national security. These issues have profound impact on our human life and dignity, and are all the more complex by being so intertwined, not only with each other but also with their underlying moral and spiritual dimensions.”

Focusing on Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and Canada, the letter called attention to issues which the Catholic Bishops of Canada have been discussing. Archbishop Durocher concluded his letter by offering the prayers and sympathies of the Bishops following the funeral for the Honourable Jim Flaherty on April 16 and the deaths of the five young people in Calgary who were murdered during the early morning of April 15.

2014 Pentecost Message for Canadian Catholic National Movements and Associations

The CCCB Standing Committee for Relations with Movements and Associations sent its annual Pentecost message to the Catholic movements and associations of Canada. In the first paragraph of its message, the Standing Committee wrote that “the Movements and Associations of the Church are a sign and instrument of the Holy Spirit in our times. Each member of the Movements and Associations brings a dynamic presence of the Holy Spirit into a very real encounter with the world.”

CCCB President sends condolences to the Holy Father

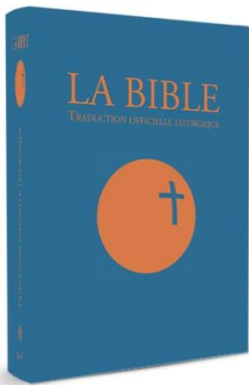
The Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau and President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), has conveyed to Pope Francis the condolences and prayers of all the Bishops of Canada following the tragic death of three members of his family in a traffic accident in Argentina. Mrs. Valeria Carmona, wife of the Pope's nephew Emanuel Horacio Bergoglio, and their two young sons, José and Antonio, were both killed. The Holy Father's 38-year-old nephew (the son of the Pope's late brother Alberto) is currently in critical condition in hospital.



CCCB issues appeal for mercy, compassion and justice in the Middle East and throughout the world

The Executive Committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has issued an appeal "for mercy, compassion and justice in the Middle East and throughout the world". The text was approved at the Executive's meeting on August 25, 2014. In its message, the Executive states: "As followers of the Crucified One, we recognize particularly in the Middle East the sufferings of our own brothers and sisters in faith. Moved by their pains and afflictions, we make their cause our own. We are united with them in solidarity and faith." The appeal is addressed "to all people - of every faith and in the name of good will, here in Canada and around the world - to do even more to assist the suffering of those in need." The message is also being sent to the Patriarchs of the Catholic Churches in the Middle East by the CCCB President.

Documents and resources:

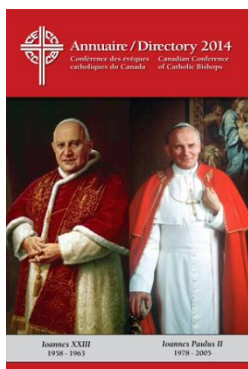
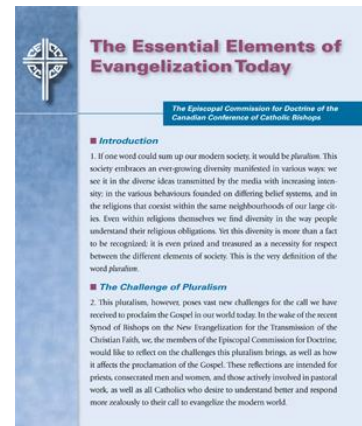


New French-language liturgical translation of the Bible

The Canadian edition of *La Bible, Traduction officielle liturgique*, is available since the end of November 2013. The translation work took 17 years and involved 70 exegetes, biblical scholars and linguists, working in collaboration with the world's French-language Episcopal Conferences, including our Conference. Father Henri Delhougne, O.S.B., a monk from Clervaux Abbey in Luxembourg, coordinated the international project. The *Bible liturgique* has been approved by the Bishops of all French-speaking countries, including Canada, and received the *recognitio* of the Holy See.

"Essential Elements of Evangelization Today"

Our Episcopal Commission for Doctrine posted on the CCCB Website a text entitled "The Essential Elements of Evangelization Today". Written from the context of the Canadian pluralist society, this document is intended not only for priests, consecrated men and women, and those actively involved in pastoral work, but also for "all Catholics who desire to understand better and respond more zealously to their call to evangelize the modern world." Although composed prior to the release of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), its approach and recommendations are similar, while providing a uniquely Canadian perspective.

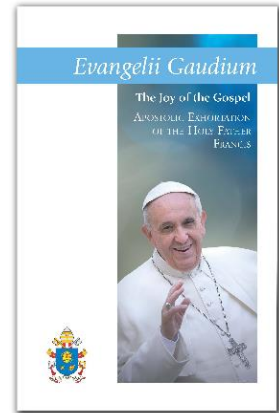


CCCB Directory 2014

The CCCB Directory is the only official source for the most current biographical, statistical, and contact information for the key representatives of the Catholic Church in Canada. Complete, accurate and bilingual listings presented in an accessible format.

Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel - Apostolic Exhortation

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew." In his first Apostolic Exhortation released November 26, 2013, Pope Francis encourages "the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come."

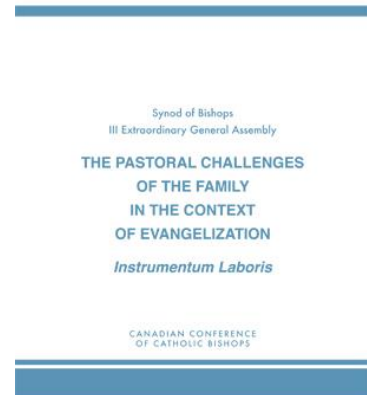


ORDO - Liturgical Calendar 2014-2015

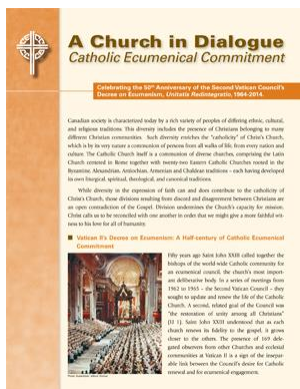
The ORDO, or Liturgical Calendar, is an essential tool for Bishops, priests, deacons, religious, parish staff and volunteers, liturgy committees, and teachers. It is a great resource for anyone who wants to follow the liturgical year or pray the Liturgy of the Hours. The Ordo provides full liturgical information and explanatory notes for each day in the liturgical year. It commences with the first Sunday of Advent and finishes the last day of Ordinary Time. The Ordo includes pastoral notes which are organized with an alphabetical subject index.

The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization - *Instrumentum Laboris*

The *Instrumentum Laboris* is the result of the consultations in preparation for the III Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on "*The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization*", to be held in the fall 2014. The Synod of Bishops will discuss the pastoral challenges of the family in two stages. First, in 2014, the Presidents of the world's Episcopal Conferences and other Bishops will meet in an Extraordinary General Assembly will analyse the information, testimonies and recommendations received, in order to prepare the basis for the 2015 Synod. In 2015, a larger representation of the world's Bishops will meet in an Ordinary General Assembly to reflect further on key points and to formulate pastoral guidelines.



This is by no means an exhaustive document, but *Instrumentum Laboris* offers a "perspective on the present-day situation of the family, on the challenges of the family and on the reflections related to the family today".



A Church in Dialogue - Catholic Ecumenical Commitment

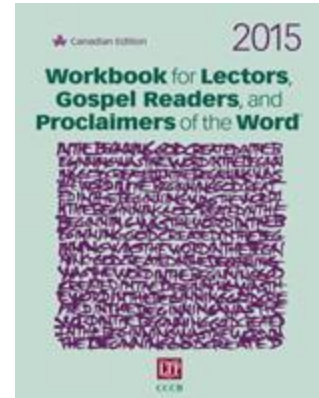
To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio* (promulgated in 1964), the CCCB, through its Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews and Interfaith Dialogue, has published a new popular resource, "*A Church in Dialogue, Catholic Ecumenical Commitment*". This new CCCB resource is intended for

parishes, colleges and high schools as well as discussion groups. It provides introductory information about the Catholic Church's commitment to and involvement in ecumenism since the Second Vatican Council. The resource defines key terms and definitions which will assist those exploring ecumenism for the first time.

Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word® 2015

Workbook for Lectors can provide the ongoing instruction and advice that lectors need. It assists them in preparing their assigned reading from the Canadian Lectionary on a specific occasion. When ministers of the Word read this resource every week as a way of reflecting on and learning about the Scriptures, it strengthens their proclamation skills and deepens their spiritual lives. Lectors learn to touch the hearts of the assembly with their reading.

This resource contains the readings in large print for easy practice, with words in bold indicating suggestions for emphasis, commentaries that give background and explain the meaning of the reading, margin notes with pronunciation guides and tips for proclamation. Now the Responsorial Psalm is also included for meditation and context. The *Workbook's* introduction offers an orientation to the ministry of the Word and an overview of proclamation skills. For those parishes that want to adopt the practice on special occasions, links are provided to audio files demonstrating chanted introductions and closings for the readings.



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