

Canadian Bishops Reflect on Freedom of Religion & Conscience

Below is an executive summary regarding the May 14, 2012 release of a pastoral letter from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) on the issue of freedom of religion and conscience. To access the full text of the letter, go to www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/Freedom_of_Conscience_and_Religion.pdf.

In its pastoral letter, the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) explains why freedom of religion and conscience is necessary for the common good of countries such as Canada where religious diversity is the norm. These freedoms are not granted by the state, society or any human authority, but belong to all people by virtue of their humanity. For this reason, when these freedoms are disregarded or repressed, the human person – and therefore human society – suffers. Freedom of conscience is necessary for seeking the truth and adhering to the truth. Freedom of religion is not merely the right to freedom of worship; it includes the right to live out one's faith in the public square.

The letter is largely occasioned by the spread in our own country of an aggressive relativism that actively seeks to force its own view of truth on others. It attempts to relegate religious belief to the private sphere, and considers religion to be insignificant, alien or even destabilizing. Legitimate secularity is open to the engagement of religious beliefs and faith communities in public debate and civic life. Radical secularism, however, excludes religion from the public square. This disfigured view of the secular is becoming more militant in attempting to silence religious believers when their views contradict its own, particularly on issues of education, human life and the family. It is highly hostile to a truly democratic and pluralist society, in that it tolerates only its own voice and tries to silence all others.

The pastoral letter, addressed to everyone of good will, calls on Catholics, all believers, and even those of no faith, 1) to affirm the right of religion to be active in the public square, 2) to maintain healthy Church-State relations, 3) to form consciences according to objective truth, and 4) to protect the right to conscientious objection. The letter also encourages all faith communities to contribute to the formulation of public policy and the common good, and concludes by exhorting believers not to compromise their convictions but to stand up for their faith, even if they must suffer for it.

The CCCC Permanent Council is composed of 12 Catholic Bishops from across the country. It is responsible for overseeing the activities and policies of the Conference between the annual meetings of the Plenary Assembly of all the Bishops of Canada, and approving how the decisions and recommendations of the Plenary Assembly are implemented.

To access this summary, go to:

www.archdioceseoftoronto.blogspot.ca/2012/05/canadian-bishops-reflect-on-freedom-of.html

3rd Annual St Benedict Golf Tournament

Monday June 25th

12:45 pm shotgun start

Glen Eagle Golf Club

Dinner to follow

Cost \$150 per golfer:

includes golf, cart and dinner

All proceeds go to the Capital Campaign

***Entries will be available after all the masses
on May 26-27 and June 2-3***

For registration & sponsorship forms go to:
www.stbenedicts.ca/eventdetail.aspx?evid=43



POPE BENEDICT XVI APPOINTS MSGR. WAYNE KIRKPATRICK AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO



Pope Benedict XVI, appointed Msgr. Wayne Kirkpatrick, a priest of the Diocese of St. Catharines, Ontario, as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Cardinal Thomas Collins welcomed the announcement: "We give thanks for the appointment of Bishop-designate Kirkpatrick.

He brings with him many diverse gifts and a wealth of experience from his years of service to the Diocese of St. Catharines. Our thoughts and prayers are with him as he embarks on this new chapter of ministry."

Msgr. 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.

Bishop-designate Kirkpatrick has served the Diocese of St. Catharines in diverse roles since his ordination, including 22 years in diocesan administration, concurrently serving in parish ministry as a pastor for 17 years. He presently serves as moderator of the curia, chancellor and judicial vicar of the diocese, as well as rector of the cathedral. Bishop-designate Kirkpatrick was named a Prelate of Honour by Pope John Paul II in June 1999, a Papal Honour that bestows the title of "Monsignor" on priests recognized for their service to the church.

Bishop-designate Kirkpatrick will be ordained to the episcopate in St. Catharines at a date to be determined before commencing his duties with the Archdiocese of Toronto. He will join three other auxiliary bishops who currently assist Cardinal Collins in caring for the pastoral needs of the 1.9 million faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto. More than 800 diocesan and religious priests provide pastoral leadership in 225 churches throughout the GTA with Mass celebrated each week in more than 30 languages.

NEXT SUNDAY JUNE 3, 2012  **IS SHARELIFE SUNDAY**

WORKING WONDERS FOR THE YOUTH...

Mitch was 15 when he was kicked out of home by his mentally unstable mother. He lived on the streets, stole food, dropped out of school. To ward off the cold, "finding grates was the big thing". Mitch was saved from the dangers of the streets by Covenant House, a ShareLife agency. Today, he lives in the agency's shelter and attends its on-site high school. *In 2011, ShareLife agencies provided residential programs for 1,500 young people. An additional 40,000 were also given food, shelter, guidance, care and education. Please support ShareLife.*

THE SHARELIFE COMMUNITY CHALLENGE – HAVE YOUR CAMPAIGN GIFT MATCHED!

Through the ShareLife Community Challenge, all new and increased gifts to the 2012 ShareLife campaign will be matched! A generous parishioner in the Archdiocese has agreed to match up to \$650,000 in new and increased contributions to the campaign. Together, as a Catholic community, we have an opportunity to respond to this challenge and make a significant impact on the work of our agencies. Make a sacrificial gift to the campaign today – You Can Work Wonders!

Our current total is \$51,942.20. We need another \$6,067.80 to reach our target of \$68,000. We respectfully ask those who have as yet not made their offering to do so as soon as possible. Special envelopes are in the pews today. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

ST. DOMINIC SAVIO SQUIRE

On behalf of the St. Dominic Savio Squire Circle, we want to thank you, the parishioners, so much for your support during our Mother's Day Flower Sale. We earned \$550.00 which will go towards the Squires Convention next week.

QUEEN OF HEAVEN CATHOLIC CEMETERY

There is a special mass scheduled on June 9 at 9:30 am in the St. Anthony Chapel of the Mausoleum. For further information contact the cemetery at 905-851-5822

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Sunday Offering \$7,383
Average Env. Donation \$14.41

Thank you for your generous support!



Pray for the Dead

Vincenzo Leone

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, May 28

8:00am Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. Jude for favours received by T. McIntosh

Tuesday, May 29

9:00am Holy Child School Mass at school
10:30am Mass at Kipling Acres
7:30pm Maria Acquino by Acquino family

Wednesday, May 30

8:00am Emmett Kearney by Janice Glover

Thursday, May 31

8:00am Giuseppe & Angelina Vesca by Vesca family
10:30am St. Benedict School Mass in church

First Friday, June 1

8:00am Concettina Terlizzi by Iva Camelier
7:30pm Gaspare, Rosa & Caterina Valentino by daughter

Saturday, June 2

8:00am John Lorenc by the Lis family
5:00pm Leo Marineau by Gertrude

Sunday, June 3

8:00am Giuseppe Trevisan by Diane, Lisa & Steven
9:30am Marino Moras by family
9:30am For the People
11:00am Agostino & Agnese Monteleone by Domenico Monteleone & family
12:45am Maria Isopo by Clara & family

FIRST FRIDAY MASS ~ Friday, June 1st, 6:45pm
Rosary, 7:00–7:30pm, Songs of Praise and Worship and 7:30 p.m. Mass.

Savio Club

Closed for the Summer
See you on October 2nd!

Our faith community welcomes



Giocanda Doto,
Rica Hembrobueno,
Sophia D'Addario &
Elio Caparelli

May you always walk in the footsteps of the Lord.



Blessings on your Marriage

As a parish community, we keep in prayer

Vaibhav Saxena & Rebecca Burnside

who will be married on June 2, 2012

God grant them happiness, good health and a long life together.