



CONFÉRENCE DES ÉVÊQUES CATHOLIQUES DU CANADA
CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

January 6, 2012

His Excellency the Most Reverend Cardinal-designate Thomas Collins
Archbishop of Toronto
Catholic Pastoral Centre
1155 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4T 1W2

Your Grace:

On behalf of all the Bishops of Canada, I heartily congratulate you on your having been designated today by our Holy Father as a member of the College of Cardinals. This is a great honour for all the Church in our country, and once more indicates the importance of the See of Toronto in the life of the Universal Church.

This announcement by the Holy Father is also a mark of your personal esteem. You are known for being an excellent leader and example in *lectio divina*, for preaching with humility, reason and substance, and for providing a safe and secure environment in church communities for the vulnerable and the young.

As an *ex officio* member of the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, you can always be counted on for contributing to our meetings in wisdom, balance and good humour.

Your appointment to the College of Cardinals follows your participation during October 2010 in the Special Synod of Bishops for the Middle East, to which the Holy Father had appointed you as one of three Latin Rite Bishops from North America. This is not only recognition of the metropolitan nature of Toronto, in which so many cultures and nationalities have come together, but also of the welcome that you have extended to refugees and immigrants from all cultures. At the same time, you have also rightly insisted that Christians who are being persecuted in other countries should not be penalized because of their faith from being able to seek refuge in Canada.

The Permanent Council looks forward to welcoming you to its next meeting in March, when we will all have a chance together to celebrate your elevation as Cardinal.

Fraternally in Our Lord,

+ Richard Smith

Archbishop of Edmonton
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops