
**PRESS RELEASE
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**ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST TO PRESIDE AT A COLOURFUL, MULTILINGUAL
MASS ON SUNDAY JANUARY 25**

The Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, SJ, Archbishop of Ottawa will preside at the annual Homelands Mass on Sunday, January 25, 2015 at 2:30 pm at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica – 385 Sussex Drive, Ottawa. All are welcome to attend.

As a result of Archbishop Plourde's influence, the Mass grew over the years and began to take place at Notre Dame Cathedral under Archbishop Gervais. "I am privileged to continue this tradition of celebrating Mass in several different languages each year, in addition to French, English, and traditional Latin," said Archbishop Terrence Prendergast.

The Gospel will be read in Creole by Deacon Joseph Elivert, who was ordained a permanent deacon a few short weeks ago. Deacon Elivert is a member of Ottawa's Haitian Catholic community who worship at Sacré-Coeur church. This month also marks the fifth anniversary of the devastating January 2010 earthquake in Haiti that left much of the capital, Port-au-Prince, and surrounding area in ruins in one of the worst natural disasters of modern times. "However, there are still signs of hope and healing, and this is what we continue to pray for," added Msgr. Daniel Berniquez, Chair of the diocesan celebrations committee.

The first and second readings will be read in Korean and in Italian, and the prayers of the faithful will be read in Cantonese, Croatian, Arabic, Cree, and Hungarian. "The offertory procession and song will be animated by our Burundi community, which will be very different from traditional songs we often hear at Mass," said Msgr. Berniquez. "In 2012, our Congolese parish led the procession and the feedback was very positive, and we hope to experience something similar this year," he added.

More than 750 members of the national parishes of the Catholic Archdiocese of Ottawa have been invited to join in the procession, which will feature a display of traditional dress. National flags will be displayed over the balconies of the cathedral and will remain in full view throughout the celebration.

Countries and ethnic communities who will be represented include: Angola, Azores, Austria, Bosnia, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, First Nations, Germany, Haiti, Herzegovina, Honduras, Italy, Karen, Korea, Lebanon, Madagascar, Madeira, Mexico,

Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Transylvania-Romania, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam. A reception with international dishes will follow in the Cathedral hall.

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