
**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ottawa, June 10, 2015

**CELEBRATING ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST'S 20th ANNIVERSARY AS
A BISHOP AT THE DIOCESAN FEAST ON THURSDAY, JUNE 11th**

All Catholics from across the archdiocese are invited to join in the Diocesan Feast, which will be held on Thursday, June 11th at 7:30 pm at Notre Dame Cathedral – 385 Sussex Drive, Ottawa. The homily will be given by His Excellency, Luigi Bonazzi, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada.

This celebration is held in June both to commemorate the foundation of the Diocese of Bytown on June 25, 1847 and its promotion to the rank of archdiocese on June 8, 1886. We will also give thanks for the blessings we have received as an archdiocese over the past year and for the ministry and witness of Archbishop Prendergast as our shepherd.

“This year, the Church is between two special synods focusing on marriage and the family. It was encouraging to see numerous families representing their parishes at this year’s Chrism Mass and we hope to see a similar representation at this upcoming special evening,” said Msgr. Daniel Berniquez, Chair of the Diocesan Celebrations Committee.

“We are asking each parish to choose a family with children to prepare a card together at home congratulating the archbishop on his anniversary,” added Msgr. Berniquez. “The cards will be presented by the children and their family to the archbishop at the Mass. The families will process into the Cathedral together at the beginning of the celebration.”

The Archdiocese of Ottawa is home to more than 394,500 Roman Catholics and serves more than 100 parishes.

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