



ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO

ASSEMBLÉE DES ÉVÊQUES CATHOLIQUES DE L'ONTARIO

March 13, 2013

His Holiness, Pope Francis  
Vatican City

Your Holiness,

It is with great joy and thanksgiving that we, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, having just completed our Plenary Assembly, extend our fraternal greetings and prayerful best wishes on your election as Pontiff. This is truly an historic moment for the Church. Be assured of our prayers for your ministry.

We are convinced that today, more than ever, the world needs the witness of the Vicar of Christ fulfilling in his ministry the promise that Jesus made to the Apostolic College under Peter's guidance: "remember, I am with you always until the end of the age" (Matthew 28.20).

The Petrine ministry is a great gift to the world and a prophetic sign of the heavenly Father's continuing involvement in the lives of his people, manifesting providential concern for all. In this season of Lenten renewal it is with special joy overflowing from *Laetare* Sunday that we celebrate your election and see in it the ongoing gift of the Holy Spirit promised to the Apostles: "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem... and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1.8).

We pray that your ministry will continue the extraordinary contributions of Blessed Pope John Paul II and of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. The Church has been blessed by their example of personal holiness, profound teaching and true apostolic zeal for evangelization.

In the province of Ontario, Canada, we bishops strive to bear witness to a broad cross-section of the Church's cultural richness and linguistic diversity. In our own local circumstances we see manifest the oneness of the Universal Church. In these tumultuous times, we support with our prayer and personal good wishes your ministry of the New Evangelization, spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ as the answer to the search for the ultimate meaning of life that weighs heavily on the hearts of many across the world.  
*Oremus pro invicem.*

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.*  
+ Ronald Peter Fabbro, C.S.B.,  
Vice President  
Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario