



Remarks by
The Most Reverend Gerald Cyprien Lacroix
Archbishop of Quebec
Primate of Canada

Installation of
THE MOST REVEREND RICHARD GAGNON, D.D.
ARCHBISHOP OF WINNIPEG
St. Mary's Cathedral
Winnipeg, Manitoba, January 3rd, 2014

« *Be strong in the grace that is in Jesus Christ.* »

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In his Second Letter to Timothy, Saint Paul writes: « *You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus ; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses, entrust to faithful people, who will be able to teach others as well.* » (2 Tm 2:1-2). The Apostle Paul writes these inspiring words while a prisoner in Rome. It is the last chapter of his earthly life, yet he is filled with hope and continues to be faithful to his mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and forming disciples and apostles to continue to build the Church.

Today, you receive the gift of a new Shepherd, who is installed as the seventh Archbishop of Winnipeg, continuing the pastoral work begun by others before him. That is what the Church of Jesus Christ is all about: preaching the Gospel, transmitting the faith, preparing leaders and building faith communities that restore the world through the civilization of love. You succeed to a pastor who gave himself wholeheartedly in his apostolic mission, Archbishop James Weisgerber, who served this Archdiocese for over 13 years. He was installed in the month of August... it was warmer than today !

Archbishop Richard Gagnon, many of your brother Bishops and Archbishops from across Canada have come to be with you today to thank the Lord for the gift that you are to the Church of Winnipeg. With you, we pray to the Lord, the Good Shepherd, asking Him to bless you, so that your ministry here be fruitful, and help you and your people grow in apostolic and missionary zeal and holiness.

Good people of this Archdiocese, you will very soon celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of your foundation. The Lord has always been faithful in giving you the Shepherds that have led you to a deeper relationship with Him and helped you build your community life. We are grateful that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed our brother bishop, Richard, as your new Shepherd. We know him as a man of dialogue, a pastor who strives to bring people together to walk in unity and respect.

In a recent interview published in the *Winnipeg Free Press* (November 2, 2013), the then Archbishop-elect Gagnon spoke of his past experience as a public school band teacher who played clarinet, flute and saxophone. This article reveals much of who he is. He said: « Any musical ensemble is improved when you move outside of yourself and listen to others and are aware of something bigger than yourself ».

Listening to others is a top priority for Archbishop Gagnon as he arrives in your community. Like elsewhere in our vast country, there are many challenges to face, and also many opportunities to continue to make history.

That is very much in tune with what Pope Francis is inviting us all to do: to move outside of ourselves, to go out and reach all of our brothers and sisters to invite them to encounter Jesus Christ, the Living God. We all have a part to play in this symphony of the life of the Church. And it is in playing each our role, with God's grace, that we build a world of love and truth, justice and peace, communion and respect.

Archbishop Gagnon, you are no longer a public school band teacher. The Church has given you a whole symphony orchestra with which to make music, with the priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, groups and apostolic movements, families, lay people of all ages of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg! Striving to be « in tune » with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, you are called to attract many people to the Lord and enter into New Life.

En tant qu'archevêque de Québec, premier diocèse fondé au Canada par le Bienheureux François de Laval, son première évêque, permettez-moi de saluer les francophones du Manitoba, ceux de Winnipeg et des autres communautés de la Province, sans oublier les baptisés de Saint-Boniface, l'Église-Mère de l'Ouest Canadien, témoins de la présence française et catholique dans cette immense région de notre pays.

Archbishop Gagnon, you will Shepherd a historic community, rich in culture and diverse in its expression of faith. On the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, we observe a branch of three maple leaves, expressing the multicultural dimension of your community. More First Nations and Métis people live in Winnipeg than in any other city in Canada. These three maple leaves remind us of the diverse origins of all your faithful. But these three maple leaves also

represent the Holy Trinity. And that is where you are called to guide your people, to live ever more in profound communion with God our Father, with Jesus Christ, His only Son and our Saviour, with the Holy Spirit, the giver of life.

Archbishop Richard, our sincere congratulations for your response to God's call, faithful to your episcopal motto that states : « To obey is to serve in love ». Count on our prayers and support. The Church in Canada is proud to rely on your leadership and share the mission of new evangelization.

Allow me to conclude with these words from Saint Paul: « *You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses, entrust to faithful people, who will be able to teach others as well* » (2 Tm 2:1-2).