



Remarks by
His Eminence Cardinal
Gérald Cyprien Lacroix
Archbishop of Québec
Primate of Canada

**175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO**

“We give thanks with you”

Toronto, Ontario, May 30, 2017

Your Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins,
Archbishop of Toronto,
Your Worship Mr. John Tory,
Distinguished guests,

C'est avec beaucoup de joie que je suis venu de Québec pour participer à cette célébration historique.

On behalf of Bishop Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton and president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and on behalf of all the Bishops of Canada, I am very proud to greet you and offer our most sincere congratulations for the road traveled since 1841, when Bishop Michael Power was appointed

first Bishop of Toronto. Originally from Halifax, he was the first English speaking bishop to be born in Canada. He began his priestly formation in Montreal with the Sulpicians and completed his training at the Grand Séminaire de Québec. He became a great missionary, serving in many parts of the Diocese of Québec until he was appointed bishop of Toronto at the age of 37.

Bishop Power died at the age of 42, after only 5 years as Bishop of Toronto, yet he left the foundations of a Diocese that has grown to be the largest in Canada. Himself a son of Irish immigrants, the Diocese he founded continues to welcome immigrants from all over the world. Toronto is today one of the most multicultural cities in the world, where 170 languages and dialects are spoken.

The Bishops of Canada are proud to celebrate your rich history with you, the people of the Archdiocese of Toronto, and to join you in prayer to ask our Heavenly Father that the Good News of Jesus Christ may continue to be proclaimed to all who live here.

With you, we give thanks to the Lord for the decisive role the Catholic Church has played in this part of our country through its pastors, consecrated men and women and lay faithful. We pray that you may continue, as Pope Francis invites us, to be missionary disciples in the midst of the the world, and in a special way in the Queen City of our great country. The Holy Father says: *"It is necessary to have the courage to be bold and fearless pastoral evangelizers, because men, women, families and the different groups living in the cities expect from us and need the Good News which is Jesus and his Gospel."*¹

Félicitations pour ce Jubilé! Congratulations, and may God bless the Archdiocese of Toronto!

¹ Pope Francis, *Address to participants at the International Pastoral Congress on the World's Big Cities*, Consistory Hall, 27 November 2014.