
**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ottawa, June 5, 2012

**FIFTEEN YOUNG OTTAWANS GOING TO WORLD YOUTH DAY TO BE
“SENT OFF” AT THE FEAST OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OTTAWA ON
THURSDAY, JUNE 6th AT NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL**

The Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, SJ, Archbishop of Ottawa, is inviting Catholics from across the Archdiocese to join in the Diocesan Feast, which will be held on Thursday, June 6th at 7:30 pm at Notre Dame Cathedral – 385 Sussex Drive, Ottawa. The Diocese of Bytown was founded on June 25, 1847 and was promoted to the rank of Archdiocese on June 8, 1886.

In this *Year of Faith*, the Diocesan Feast will focus on our pastoral year theme: “They declared all that God had done with them, and how He had opened a door of faith.” (Acts 14:27) and “Increase our faith!” (Luke 17:5). In his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei*, Pope emeritus Benedict XVI explained that the *Door of Faith* (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church.

At the beginning of the celebration, parish representatives will enter the cathedral in a procession and will bring photos of the front doors of their churches.

“These photos will be displayed together to demonstrate our local Church’s desire to grow together in faith and to deepen our communion with God and our brothers and sisters through the *Door of Faith*,” explained Msgr. Daniel Berniquez, Chair of the Diocesan Celebrations Committee.

As a second element of our celebration, Archbishop Prendergast will also bless and “send off” our 15 pilgrims going to Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) on July 17th for World Youth Day (WYD). WYD is an international gathering of young Catholic adults which will feature a Eucharist where Pope Francis will preside. Among the Ottawa pilgrims will be Episcopal Vicar Msgr. Daniel Berniquez and Communications Officer Sarah Du Broy.

For more information on WYD, visit the official website <http://www.rio2013.com/en>.

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

-30-

Media Contact: Sarah Du Broy
Communications Officer
Office: 613-738-5025, ext. 238, Cell: 613-620-5641
sdubroy@archottawa.ca