
**PRESS RELEASE
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**ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST INVITES CATHOLICS TO GIVE AND TO PRAY FOR
THE PHILIPPINES IN THE AFTERMATH OF TYPHOON HAIYAN**

The Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, SJ, Archbishop of Ottawa, has asked Catholic parishes to conduct a special collection at all Masses in the Archdiocese of Ottawa this weekend, November 16 and 17 – or the next weekend, November 23 and 24 – to respond to the worst natural disaster to hit the Philippines in its history. Last Friday, Typhoon Haiyan forced 600,000 people from their homes, and approximately 9.5 million people are in need of aid across nine provinces.

“This is a difficult time for Filipinos, including many from our Catholic community in Ottawa who have relatives and friends in the devastated region,” explained Archbishop Prendergast who presided at a special Mass, with the Filipino community, on Monday, November 11 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Vanier.

“Many have not been able to contact their loved ones in the Philippines to find out if they are alright since the typhoon struck and left more than 10,000 dead and hundreds of thousands badly affected,” he added. “This is why we are taking up a special collection as soon as possible, and we are asking the faithful to give generously.”

The Government of Canada has announced that it will match donations to the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund made by Canadians to Canadian-registered charities between November 9 and December 9. Contributions made through the Archdiocese of Ottawa for this relief effort will be eligible for the matching programme.

Online donations are being accepted on the diocesan website www.CatholicOttawa.ca.

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

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