



## NEWS RELEASE

### CATHOLICS REACH OUT TO VICTIMS OF PHILIPPINES TYPHOON DISASTER

**Edmonton, November 12, 2013** – Catholics in the Archdiocese of Edmonton are responding to the unprecedented natural disaster in the Philippines with prayer and generosity.

Archbishop Richard Smith will preside at a special Mass in Solidarity with the People of the Philippines at **7 p.m. Wednesday evening at St. Theresa's Parish, 7508 - 29 Avenue, Edmonton**. The parish is one of the largest and most diverse in the Archdiocese, and about half its members have Filipino roots.

A collection will be taken at the Mass in support of relief efforts. Archbishop Smith has invited all Catholics to reach out by donating to the Philippines emergency appeal of the [Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace](#). All 126 parishes and missions across the Archdiocese are being asked to take up special collections for the relief efforts.

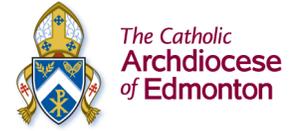
“Our hearts ache for all the people who have lost loved ones, who have been injured themselves, who have lost their homes or been traumatized by what they have witnessed,” said Archbishop Smith. “I invite everyone to join me for the Wednesday Mass to show our solidarity with the people of the Philippines and to pray that they will find some measure of relief and comfort through the grace of God and our loving support.”

The Philippines was struck by the worst disaster in its history on Friday, when Typhoon Haiyan ripped through the country. It is estimated that over 9.5 million people are in need of aid, and that 600,000 have been forced from their homes.

Development and Peace has a long history of working in the Philippines. Caritas Nassa, one of Development and Peace’s main partners in the country, is already coordinating the distribution of food and shelter for victims of this catastrophe.

Donations made to Development and Peace for relief efforts are eligible for the matching fund program announced by the Canadian government. Donations will be matched until December 9, 2013. Donations can be made by telephone (1-888-664-3387), online at <http://www.devp.org> or by cheque to

Development and Peace  
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For more information, or to arrange an interview with Father Jim Corrigan, the pastor at St. Theresa's, please contact:

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