

March 6, 2013

His Eminence Marc Cardinal Ouellet
Prefect
Congregation for Bishops
Rome, Italy

Your Eminence,

At the same time that you are now a Curial Cardinal at the service of the Universal Church, all of us remember your pastoral service in our midst and wish to assure you of our prayers as you prepare to enter the Conclave.

Your brother Bishops in Canada are united with you in prayer as the process soon begins for electing the successor to the See of Peter. We are joined in our prayers by the clergy, religious and all the faithful of our diocesan Churches.

We are also united in our profound gratitude to the Father of all Mercies who has blessed the Church these past years with the dedicated leadership and wise teaching of Benedict XVI. He has told us his mission now is to pray for the Church, and we know you and all the Cardinals will especially be in his prayers before and during the Conclave.

May the Holy Spirit guide and assist you as you discern who best at this moment in the history of the Church and of our world to fulfill the mission and ministry Our Lord entrusted to Peter – to confirm his brethren in faith and to unite all the Church in communion.

With the assurance of my prayers for God's blessings upon your work and witness, I am,

Yours fraternally in Our Lord,

+ Richard W. Smith

Archbishop of Edmonton and

President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

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