



**His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins  
Office of the Cardinal  
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**2016/12**

**September 29 2016  
Dedication of St. Michael, the Archangel**

Your Eminence,

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Brother in Christ, peace and all good.

I write to add my congratulations to those of so many others on the occasion of the Rededication of Saint Michael's Cathedral on this day.

Our Mass for this feast of the Dedication of Saint Michael, the Archangel will be offered in thanksgiving for the successful renovation of the Cathedral.

I have recently read the excellent and thoughtful special supplement issued by The Catholic Register highlighting the history of the Cathedral and the process of her restoration under your inspired and steady shepherding.

For a city in which scant importance is often paid to the preservation of our historical buildings, the Cathedral's restoration shines forth as an example for others to follow. The renovation of such a significant building in the history of our city should give pause in future decision-making as regards the cost of restoration versus starting from scratch. There is meaning to our historical places which go deeper than budgetary considerations.

Besides being a building of historical significance for our city, Saint Michael's Cathedral is an important place of worship. This sacred space has now been renewed for the continued growth of

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the community of faith. Having found at Saint Michael's Cathedral an oasis to be in the Lord's Presence in prayer and contemplation – sometimes simply in restful repose – in the midst of the frenetic activity of downtown Toronto, I rejoice in knowing that it will once again provide this sanctuary. I look forward to seeing the realization of Cathedral Square which will but add to the Lord's presence in downtown Toronto.

Although some will be critical of the effort and money put toward this massive renovation project, it fills me with spiritual consolation knowing that you have done as Saint Francis of Assisi did, rebuilding the physical building as an expression of rebuilding the community of faith, all in the service of the worship due Almighty God.

With prayers to Saint Michael, the Archangel that he may protect and defend us and Christ's Church,

I remain,

*+ Roger LaRade, O.F.A.*

Most Reverend Roger LaRade, O.F.A.  
Primate-Archbishop