



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Vancouver Catholics Showing Solidarity for Syria

Prayers and fasting to culminate in special collection for refugees

VANCOUVER (Sept. 5, 2013) – Catholics in the Archdiocese of Vancouver will pray, fast and open their wallets to raise money for Syrian refugees as they respond to Pope Francis’s appeal "for peace in Syria, in the Middle East, and in the whole world."

The Pope has declared Saturday, Sept. 7, a world day of prayer and fasting for peace in the Middle East. "May the cry for peace be raised strongly throughout the earth!" he said.

Vancouver Archbishop J. Michael Miller has also called on Catholics in the Archdiocese to pray and fast for peace Saturday, Sept. 14.

Catholic social media have been active with followers responding and expressing their desire to join in solidarity with those living in the war-torn regions. One Abbotsford Catholic school Facebooked that students will be praying on Friday since they won’t be together on Saturday.

Vancouver Archbishop J. Michael Miller has also scheduled a special collection to be taken up at all Masses Sept. 15. "Pope Francis has called for peace in Syria and assured its people that the Church will not abandon them," he wrote in a letter to Vancouver Catholics. "He has asked that we, together with the international community, provide humanitarian aid for the displaced and refugees."

Proceeds will be distributed by the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. Donations can also be made online at www.devp.org/donate.

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