

JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE

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COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Catholic TV founder, Vatican press liaison in town Father Thomas Rosica attending Archdiocese of Vancouver's Red Mass

VANCOUVER, Jan. 15, 2014 – Father Thomas Rosica, the priest who was often the face of the Vatican during last year's election of Pope Francis, is in Vancouver this week for the Archdiocese of Vancouver's annual Red Mass.

Father Rosica, a Vatican press liaison and current Chief Executive Officer of <u>Salt + Light Television</u> <u>network</u>, will speak at the Archdiocese of Vancouver's annual Red Mass Thursday night.

The Red Mass will be celebrated Thursday, Jan. 16, at 5:10 p.m. at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver (corner of Richards and Dunsmuir). The event is open to the public.

Archbishop J. Michael Miller will celebrate the Archdiocese of Vancouver's Red Mass, honouring members of the legal profession for their work in the service of justice and the common good.

The Red Mass dates to 13th-century Europe as a tradition for honouring the legal profession and was reintroduced in Vancouver in 2011. As a result of that event, Catholic lawyers who shared a common faith began connecting with each other.

Named for the red vestments worn by clergy symbolic of the tongues of fire descending on the Apostles at Pentecost, Red Masses are frequently attended by leading figures across the legal, political and related professional fields, and remain an important occasion for Catholic lawyers to connect with their faith community.

Father Rosica will also be speaking <u>Friday night at Good Shepherd Church in Surrey</u>, discussing the upcoming canonizations of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII.

In March 2013, Father Rosica served in the Vatican's Press Office as an official spokesperson for the transition in the papacy. He will be the homilist at the Mass and guest speaker at a reception for Vancouver's legal profession afterward.

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