



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Archbishop ‘delighted’ with election of Pope Francis

VANCOUVER (March 13, 2013) – Vancouver Archbishop J. Michael Miller greeted news of the election of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio with “absolute delight at the wisdom of the choice.”

Archbishop Miller called the Jesuit Cardinal Bergoglio someone who will embody the Church’s commitment to the poor and disenfranchised, which stems from both his own background and his choice of the name Pope Francis.

“By honouring St. Francis of Assisi, possibly the best known saint in the world, our new Pope seems to be expressing his intention to emphasize personal simplicity and love of the poor. This is the life he himself has led; he lived in a simple apartment in Buenos Aires and even took the bus to work.

Archbishop Miller said he recalled what the new Pope said in a homily in Rome last year. “Speaking to a group of those being confirmed, he said, ‘Jesus does not force you to be a Christian. But if you say you are a Christian you must believe that Jesus has all the strength – the only one who has the strength – to renew the world, to renew your life, to renew your family, to renew the community, to renew everybody.’ ”

The Archbishop said the selection of the first non-European Pope in more than 1,000 years signifies “a joyous, remarkable occasion, emphasizing the universal nature of the Church. Catholics are at home everywhere.”

He said “The new Pope brings extensive pastoral experience, remarkable intellectual skills, and a love for the simplicity of the Gospel that our world urgently needs reminding of.”

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