



Media Release

Catholic Bishops of Canada Gather for the Annual Meeting of the Plenary Assembly

17 September 2026, Ottawa – Next week (21-25 September 2026), the members of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) will gather in Montreal, Quebec, for the annual meeting of the Plenary Assembly. Through prayer, discussion, and decision-making, the Bishops will consider matters concerning the Church's mission that benefit from their common reflection and action at the national level.

The following are among the principal agenda items and topics to be considered during the week, in a spirit of prayer and discernment:

- **Celebration of the Eucharist** - Each day will begin with the celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Catholic faith. The President of the CCCC and Bishops ordained since the last Plenary will preside at these celebrations. A celebration of the Eucharist in the Armenian Rite will also take place, presided by the Most Rev. Mikaël Mouradian.
- **500th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe** - The Most Rev. Pierre Goudreault, accompanied by the Most Rev. Bryan Joseph Bayda, C.Ss.R., and the Most Rev. Juan Carlos Londoño, will lead the Bishops of Canada in a discussion on the pastoral initiatives to explore in preparation for the anniversary.
- **Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute (CCBI)** - Mr. Eoin Connolly, Executive Director, and Dr. Patricia Murphy, Program Director will provide updates on the activities of the CCBI. Mr. Connolly will also offer a presentation on current questions in Catholic health care in Canada.
- **Holy Hour with Vespers for Victims and Survivors of Sexual Abuse** – The Bishops will listen to excerpts from testimonies of persons who suffered sexual abuse within the Church, gathered by the Independent Commission on Sexual Abuse in the Church in France. The testimonies will invite the Bishops to acknowledge more deeply the wounds caused by abuse and to renew their commitment to truth and justice, compassionate accompaniment, repentance and conversion within the Church, and the continued protection of minors and vulnerable persons. The Most Rev. Paul-André Durocher will preside. The testimonies will be followed by a period of sacred silence, Eucharistic adoration, Vespers and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. During the Plenary, the Bishops will also continue their work concerning responsible ministry and the protection of minors and persons in vulnerable situations.
- **Pastoral and Institutional Work of the CCCC** – The Bishops will receive reports from the Conference's Episcopal Commissions and other bodies, including on migrant and



refugee ministry, Indigenous reconciliation, family and life issues, and ecumenism. They will also confirm new appointments to the Episcopal Commissions and Standing Committees for the coming three-year term and consider the priorities proposed for the National and Sectoral Episcopal Commissions for the 2026-2029 triennium.

This year, the keynote address will be given by the Most Rev. Lizardo Estrada Herrera, O.S.A., Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM) Secretary General. His address will consider how synodality is being implemented in South America.

As is customary, the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, will address the Bishops in his capacity as the Pope's representative in Canada.

The Plenary Assembly will also receive invited observers and guests from a number of national Catholic organizations and other Churches, together with accredited representatives from the media. Invited observers and accredited media will be present on 21 September and until noon on 22 September.

What is the Plenary Assembly?

A meeting of the Plenary Assembly is a solemn and important event in the life of the Church in Canada because it gathers together all the members of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCBC), who total 81 Bishops of the Latin and Eastern Churches across Canada.

The Plenary Assembly is the principal deliberative and decision-making body of the Conference. Convoked at least once a year, it considers matters entrusted to the Conference and forms of pastoral action that can appropriately be undertaken together at the national level. Its work includes reports and questions from the Episcopal Commissions and other bodies of the Conference, as well as discussion and pastoral reflection on matters of common concern. The Conference supports the Bishops in their common responsibilities while respecting the proper pastoral governance of each Bishop in the particular Church entrusted to his care.

-30-

Media requests:

Pomeline Martinoski

Director of Communications

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Email: communications@cccb.ca

Telephone: 613-241-9461, ext. 225