



ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

January 2, 2008

RAYMOND ROUSSIN, SM, RETIRES AS ARCHBISHOP OF VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER – Raymond Roussin, S.M., has retired as Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vancouver, it was announced Jan. 2, 2009. Upon acceptance of his retirement by the Holy Father at the Vatican, in accordance with the code of canon law (401.2), **Coadjutor Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB**, immediately assumed full pastoral responsibility for the Archdiocese. The role of coadjutor carries with it the automatic right of succession.

“While I will miss my role, I am happy to be able to turn full responsibility over to Archbishop Miller,” said Roussin. “He is an energetic man with a great vision for Vancouver – particularly with respect to schools, health care and pastoral planning, which is surely a realization of the Synod directives.

“I pray that God will grant him continued strength and draw the diocese ever closer to Christ’s only way.”

Background on Archbishop Raymond Roussin

Archbishop Roussin, who was installed as Archbishop of Vancouver on Feb. 17, 2004, was born in Saint Boniface, Manitoba on June 17, 1939 and earned his undergraduate degree from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas. He studied for the priesthood at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and was ordained there in 1970 as a member of the Congregation of Marianists. He taught for many years in Quebec, Manitoba, and the United States before becoming Provincial of his Order from 1980-87.

He was first named a bishop in 1995 when he was appointed Bishop of Gravelbourg, Sask., a position he held until that diocese's dissolution in 1998. He became bishop of Victoria in 1999, after having served a year as Coadjutor Bishop there.

Archbishop Roussin has been active within the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), serving as a member of the Episcopal Commission for Christian Education (French Sector), the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy (English Sector), the Permanent Council, and also as CCCB liaison Bishop with Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry.

During his time in Vancouver he was noted for his humble manner and deeply spiritual approach to ministry as well as for publicly acknowledging his own struggle with depression. He was the first Archbishop of Vancouver to issue an apology for the treatment of First Nations people for their treatment in residential schools. His motto was "steadfast in faith." He retires as a result of a neurological illness from which he has been suffering for several years.

"Archbishop Roussin has been a great teacher to all of us," said Miller. "His simplicity and prayerfulness, his patience in face of adversity, and his courage in the public forum will leave a lasting impression as a gentle pastor of souls.

"The Archdiocese has been richly blessed by his ministry. He has embodied for us what it means to be "strong in faith." I am enormously grateful for his many kindnesses and evangelical example. To me he has been a father and elder brother in the episcopacy."

Background on Archbishop J. Michael Miller

Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, was born in Ottawa on July 9, 1946. After attending Catholic schools there, he went to the University of Toronto for a year before entering the novitiate of the Basilian Fathers. He earned his Bachelor of Arts (Hons) at the University of Toronto and his Master's at the University of Wisconsin in the field of Latin American studies. After teaching high school for a year, he completed his Master of Divinity at the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, and then spent from 1974 to 1979 in Rome, where he was ordained into the priesthood (1975) by Pope Paul VI and earned his licentiate (1976) and doctorate (1979) in Theology at the Jesuit-run Pontifical Gregorian University.

In 1979 Archbishop Miller joined the faculty of the Department of Theology at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, and, subsequently served as its Chair and as Dean of the School of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary. In 1990, he was named the University's Vice President for Academic Affairs.

In 1992 Miller was called to Rome and worked in the English-language section of the Secretariat of State of the Holy See, where he remained until 1997, when he returned to Houston as the president of the University of St. Thomas.

In 2003 Pope John Paul II appointed him Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education and he was subsequently ordained Archbishop at St. Peter's Basilica on January 12, 2004. He worked at the Holy See until his appointment as Coadjutor Archbishop of Vancouver on June 1, 2007.

Archbishop Miller is a prolific writer. A specialist on the papacy, modern papal teaching and Catholic higher education, he has published seven books and more than 150 articles, scholarly, popular and journalistic. His books include *The Shepherd and the Rock: Origins, Development, and Mission of the Papacy* (1995) and the *Encyclicals of John Paul II* (2nd ed., 2001).

His episcopal motto is "to serve the truth."

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