

**Verbal Greeting of the Apostolic Nuncio  
Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Christian Riesbeck, CC  
Notre Dame Cathedral, Ottawa  
March 19, 2014**

Esteemed and dear brother Cardinals, dear brother Bishops, frères et sœurs dans Jésus Christ,

It is really a great joy for me to begin my mission as Papal Nuncio to Canada with such an emotional celebration, namely the consecration of the Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa Mgr. Christian Riesbeck. I was still in Vilnius (Lithuania) when I got the news of his appointment, and I realized straight away that he is a very young bishop.

J'ai pensé tout de suite que cela était aussi un signe que l'Église est jeune, que l'Église est vivante, pas seulement de la jeunesse de l'âge mais surtout de la jeunesse de l'Esprit, celle qui laisse place à Dieu dans notre vie, Lui qui nous garde constamment dans la joie et la jeunesse.

It is a joy for me to convey to you the greetings and friendship of our Holy Father Pope Francis, and his spiritual presence among us, in this important event in the life of the church, and especially of the Archdiocese of Ottawa, namely the Ordination of a Bishop.

Comme Notre Archevêque, Mgr Prendergast, l'a rappelé au début de cette eucharistie, précisément aujourd'hui c'est le premier anniversaire du début de la mission de Pasteur universel de l'Église du Pape François, qui ne perd jamais l'occasion pour nous demander de prier pour lui. Alors je vous invite à un moment de silence pour prier ensemble pour lui.

Our Christian faith helps us to realize that a Bishop is first of all a gift coming down from heaven, is a gift of God who, through the Pastors of the Church, wishes to renew and to make tangible to us His presence in our history, the presence of a Shepherd who takes care of us, who gives his life for us.

So we prayed for the Pope and we pray now for our new Bishop Christian (a moment of silence).

L'évêque est un cadeau, de Dieu mais en même temps il est aussi le fruit de notre travail, le fruit de nos mains.

He is, as we easily understand, the fruit of the love of his family. So I would like to take this occasion really to offer a profound thanks to daddy Heribert and mommy Colette

and his two sisters, because Bishop Christian is the fruit of their daily prayer and of their daily sacrifice.

L'évêque est aussi le fruit de la communauté chrétienne, des paroisses et de tous ceux qui vivent leur foi, les prêtres, les religieux et religieuses, le fruit de la foi de la communauté chrétienne.

Je voudrais tout spécialement remercier l'Archevêque Gervais qui l'a ordonné prêtre et l'Archevêque Prendergast qui a eu confiance en lui et qui se réjouisse de l'ordination de Mgr Christian.

And I would also like to thank the Companions of the Cross, this religious family who in a special way helped Bishop Riesbeck to discover his christian and priestly vocation.

Don de Dieu et fruit de nos mains, l'évêque est « une œuvre » qui n'est jamais terminée: l'évêque continue d'avoir besoin de notre soutien, de notre support. Nous avons de bons évêques dans la mesure où nous accompagnons nos évêques, où nous prions pour nos évêques, où nous souffrons pour nos évêques. Comme dans une famille on a de bons enfants si on se donne à eux, si on vit pour eux, le même arrive pour les prêtres et pour les évêques. Donc il faut continuer à accompagner le nouveau évêque.

I would like to tell you, Bishop Christian: courage, you are not alone, we are behind you!

Now let me tell you that Bishop Christian leaves an open task to all of us: there is an emptiness to be filled up, because with his ordination as a bishop there is a priest less in the Archdiocese and so we have to find a way to fill this gap. Let us therefore pray with faith and confidence to the Lord. Let us ask for a new priest, for new priests in this Archdiocese, and also for good families, because there are no good priests without good families.

Prions pour que notre communauté chrétienne s'enrichisse de nouveaux prêtres, religieux et religieuses, familles sainte.

Today is the feast of Saint Joseph Patron of Canada. Dear Bishop Christian, as Saint Joseph was the shadow of the Heavenly Father in the care and protection that he gave to Jesus and Mary, so may you be a loving Father, so that together with your Archbishop, and in close collaboration with the priests, religious and lay faithful of this Archdiocese, you may be for the Church a servant of the (joy of the) Gospel of Jesus Christ for the hope of the world (*Apostolic Exhortation Pastores Gregis, October 16, 2003*). Amen.