



Archdiocese
of Vancouver

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Archbishop to honour 17 men, women for service

Awards from Pope Francis to be bestowed at Nov. 24 Mass in Vancouver

VANCOUVER (Oct. 25, 2013) – Seventeen men and women of the Archdiocese of Vancouver will be recognized for their outstanding service to the Church on Sunday, Nov. 24.

Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, will confer the papal honours awarded by Pope Francis at a Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral. The Mass will also officially close the Year of Faith, during which Pope Emeritus Benedict invited Catholics to rediscover the gift of faith and to seek new ways of proclaiming it.

The Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (For Church and Pope) is the highest award that can be awarded to lay people.

This award is to be received by: Gerard Ayotte (St. James Parish, Abbotsford); Lennie David (Immaculate Conception, Delta); Neysa Finnie and Patricia Proudfoot (St. Augustine's, Vancouver); and Angus Reid (Christ the Redeemer, West Vancouver).

The *Benemerenti* medal (to a well deserving person) is conferred on those with long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church, their families, and the community.

Twelve lay people will receive this medal: Lorne Beauchamp (St. Pius X, North Vancouver); Rita Dion (Star of the Sea, Surrey); Michael Kim (St. Andrew Kim, Surrey); Mildred Moy (St. Mary's, Vancouver); Catherine Neugebauer, Thu Tung, and Van Thi Nguyen (St. Joseph's, Vancouver); Margherita Oberti (Christ the Redeemer); Lawrence Pillon (St. Augustine's); Sister Veronica Tang, SIHM (St. Francis Xavier, Vancouver); Peter Ufford (Star of the Sea, Surrey); and Rosemary Wertschek (Sts. Peter and Paul, Vancouver).

The honourees will receive their awards at a Mass officially closing the Year of Faith at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 24 in Holy Rosary Cathedral. A reception will follow in Rosary Hall.

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