



## Pope Francis Elevates Archbishop Francis Leo to the College of Cardinals

– Pope Francis has announced that Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto, the Most Rev. Francis Leo will be elevated to the College of Cardinals. The announcement came at the conclusion of the Holy Father's Sunday Angelus in Rome.

The Holy Father will hold a Consistory for the creation of the new Cardinals on December 8, 2024 at the Vatican. 21 new Cardinals from around the world were included in the announcement.

Cardinal-elect Leo commented on the appointment:

"I am humbled and honoured to receive this appointment from the Holy Father. I pray and rely on the prayers of the faithful in Toronto that I will be a worthy servant of the Lord Jesus in fulfilling my

Dayton/MMRI) with a specialization in Mariology, a Licentiate in Philosophy (Lateran University), a Diploma in Classical Studies (Université de Montréal) and a Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction (Aquinas Institute of Theology). He has taught, among other places, in Montreal, Canberra (Australia), Dayton (USA) and Ottawa. He speaks English, French, Italian and Spanish.

Cardinals serves as close advisors to the Holy Father and participate whenever there is a conclave, as voting members, to select the next Pope. Following today's announcement, including the new Cardinal-electors, there will be 256 cardinals, including 141 Cardinal electors. Cardinals are eligible to vote in conclave until they reach their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Thomas Collins of Toronto remains a cardinal elector until January of 2027. Other Cardinal-electors from Canada include Cardinal Gérald Lacroix of the Archdiocese of Quebec and Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Retired Cardinal Marc Ouellet reached the age of 80 earlier this year.

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