



## **MEDIA ADVISORY – For Immediate Distribution**

### **Archdiocese of Toronto’s newest priests ordained Saturday**

*Two “men in black” begin new chapter of spiritual journey*

TORONTO (April 29, 2016) On Saturday, April 30, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, will ordain two men to the priesthood. Close to 1,000 guests are expected to attend the celebration, which will take place at 10 a.m. at Toronto’s St. Michael’s Cathedral.

Candidates for the priesthood undertake a minimum five years of extensive spiritual formation, theological education and practical training in preparation for priestly ministry. This year’s candidates spent more than a decade in discernment and formation. Upon ordination, they will be assigned to serve at one of 225 parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto, an area that stretches from Oshawa to Mississauga and north to Georgian Bay. The “Class of 2016” includes:

**Reverend Mr. Tom Kluger** – born and raised in Scarborough, second of two sons. Although baptized Roman Catholic, Tom was not raised in the faith and as a teenager was an atheist. In his late 20s, seeking meaning in his life, he recommitted to the Catholic faith. He joined Madonna House in Combermere, Ontario, a community of lay men, women and priests, where he stayed for nine years. After a lengthy discernment period, he entered St. Augustine’s Seminary in September 2010.

**Reverend Mr. Julien Malenfant** – born in a small town in eastern Quebec, Julien was the third of 11 children. While still a toddler, his parents’ prayers to find help in the church for their rocky marriage were answered through involvement in a Catholic movement dedicated to Christian formation (Neocatechumenal Way). Involvement in that faith community inspired Julien. He felt the call to enter the seminary while at World Youth Day 2005 in Germany. In 2006, he was sent to Toronto to begin his formation at the Redemptoris Mater Seminary, affiliated with St. Augustine’s.

As one of the most diverse dioceses in the world, the Archdiocese of Toronto is home to 1.9 million Catholics, with more than 800 diocesan and religious priests providing pastoral leadership throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Mass is celebrated each week in more than 30 different languages.

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