

JANUARY

Canadian civil engineer Yves Lacourciere is tasked with rebuilding the infrastructure of the Catholic Church in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake that devastated the nation.

Toronto Archbishop Thomas Collins begins his apostolic visitation to Ireland. Collins and Ottawa Archbishop Terrence Prendergast were among four bishops assigned by the Vatican to report on the Irish clergy abuse scandal.

Governor Salman Taseer, governor of Pakistan's Punjabi province, is assassinated by his bodyguard for expressing sympathy for a Christian woman facing death on blasphemy charges.

FEBRUARY

Bishop Gerald Lacroix is named new archbishop of Quebec City, Canada's oldest diocese, taking over from Cardinal Marc Ouellet.

Pakistan Minorities Minister Shahbaz Bhatti, on a trip to Canada, says he is living with a death sentence for speaking out against his country's blasphemy law. Mere weeks later, he is assassinated in Islamabad.

Catholics protest a deliberately provocative art exhibit by Peter Alexander Por at a Toronto art gallery that features a bullet-ridden Pope Benedict XVI.

MARCH

Toronto's Bishop Peter Hundt is named new bishop for Corner Brook and Labrador, Nfld.

Archbishop Yousif Mansoor is named archbishop of Baghdad after spending the previous 14 years in Canada.

Death and destruction hit Japan as a major earthquake sets off a tsunami that kills upwards of 15,000 people.

More than 100 ex-Anglicans gather in Mississauga, Ont., for a conference to get a feel for what could be their new spiritual home, the Roman Catholic Church.

APRIL

Ottawa's Archbishop Prendergast pulls the plug on a visit to his archdiocese by Fr. Luis Arriaga, head of a Mexican centre embroiled in controversy alleging his organization promotes decriminalizing abortion.

Pope Benedict XVI offers Easter prayers for peace in the world's ongoing trouble spots, including the Middle East, where the "Arab Spring" is in full swing.

Pro-life hero Fr. Ted Colleton passes away in Toronto. The 97-year-old Spiritan crossed Canada preaching the culture of life.

MAY

More than one million fill St. Peter's Square and beyond for the beatification of Pope John Paul II.

A shift in the Catholic vote helps Stephen Harper sweep the nation as the Conservatives win a majority government.

Former Antigonish Bishop Raymond Lahey pleads guilty to possessing child pornography and is jailed immediately.

The Jesuits mark 400 years in Canada with a re-enactment of the landing of Jesuit Fathers Pierre Biard and Ennemond Massé in Port Royal, N.S.

JUNE

Pope Benedict XVI encourages communities built on Christian values and support of the traditional family while on a pilgrimage to Croatia.

Canada's Catholic bishops publish a pastoral letter on ministry to young people with same-sex attraction that upholds Church teaching, yet shows sensitivity to their challenge.

Catholic sportscaster Damian Goddard is fired by Rogers Sportsnet after Tweeting his support of traditional marriage. He later launches a human rights complaint against his former employer.

"THE CARDINAL WAS DEEP, NOT SUPERFICIAL, BECAUSE OF HIS SIMPLE DEDICATION TO JESUS." ARCHBISHOP THOMAS COLLINS ON CARDINAL ALOYSIUS AMBROZIC.



"IT'S A HISTORIC MOMENT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH AND THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD." ARCHBISHOP TERENCE PRENDERGAST ON THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

JULY

As famine devastates nations in the Horn of Africa, an urgent appeal goes out to Canadians to help feed 11 million people who face starvation.

Pope Benedict calls for an end to ideologies that promote hatred after 77 Norwegians are killed by Anders Behring Breivik, a right-wing zealot.

Retired Archbishop Francis Spence dies at his Kingston, Ont., home at age 85. The archbishop had led the Kingston archdiocese for 20 years.

AUGUST

Toronto's Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic passes away after a long illness. The former archbishop of Toronto is remembered as a man dedicated to Jesus.

Thousands of young Catholics descend on the Spanish city of Madrid for the celebration of World Youth Day 2011. Up to 1.5 million attend the closing Mass with Pope Benedict.

NDP leader Jack Layton dies and, although he opposed the Church on several life and family issues, is remembered as a spiritual person whose commitment to a caring society had a Christian foundation.

SEPTEMBER

The Vatican strongly denies that it undermined efforts to protect Irish children from sexual abuse. The Irish government's Cloyne Report accused Church officials of doing little to safeguard children.

The Catholic Register enters the Twittersphere and launches its Facebook page, joining the social media sites used daily by millions of people around the world.

Opposition parties join Canada's bishops in condemning the Conservative government's anti-smuggling bill, the first bill up for debate as Parliament resumes.

OCTOBER

Fr. Bob Bedard, founder of the charismatic order of priests the Companions of the Cross in Ottawa, dies after a lengthy illness.

The Occupy Toronto movement sets up camp in a park in downtown Toronto in a protest against economic inequality and corporate greed. It joins similar protests around the globe. The site is cleared in late November.

The Moammar Gaddafi regime comes to an end with the death of the Libyan strongman at the hands of rebel forces.

NOVEMBER

After months of preparation, English-speaking Catholics welcome the Third Edition of the Roman Missal on the first Sunday of Advent.

Fr. Frank Portelli is welcomed as new head of the archdiocese of Toronto's Office of Catholic Youth.

Anti-bullying legislation Bill 13 is introduced in Ontario, but Catholic schools fear the bill will intrude on denominational rights.

The ban on a British monarch marrying a Catholic is lifted, though a Catholic still can't be monarch. Catholics applaud the end of an "unjust discrimination."

DECEMBER

The bleak conditions and rampant poverty on Canada's First Nations reserves is thrust into the spotlight at Attawapiskat in Northern Ontario, where people are living in housing not much more than tents.

After Canada's Environment Minister Peter Kent declares the Kyoto Protocol a "big blunder," Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga tells the Durban conference on the environment that the pursuit of money is killing our environment.

Archbishop Richard Smith, head of the Canadian bishops' conference, leads a solidarity mission to Haiti to deepen relations between the Catholic Church in both nations.