



King's University College Chaplain travels to Rome for commentary on Papal Conclave FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 8, 2013

London, ON - King's University College is proud to be affiliated with the only London-based Papal commentator travelling to Rome for the Conclave. Father Michael Béchar, Chaplain at King's University College, has been invited by CTV to be an on-air commentator during the upcoming Papal Conclave. Father Béchar has been featured as an expert on CTV regarding the Papal resignation since it was announced in early February.

No stranger to television, Father Béchar provided commentary for CTV throughout the 2002 World Youth Day held in Toronto. He was previously featured on CTV as a Papal commentator in 2005 after the death of Pope John Paul II. In addition, he has been interviewed on numerous occasions by CTV, CBC and The London Free Press on issues related to the Church, interfaith dialogue, liturgy, and the ministry of the Holy Father.

"Personally, it's a tremendous opportunity to be part of history. It's one that very, very few people will ever have the chance to do," says Father Béchar. "To be given the responsibility of helping it make sense to people is fairly awe-inspiring for me. I'm really humbled."

King's Principal Dr. David Sylvester notes that Father Béchar's approachable personality, coupled with a deep knowledge and experience in liturgical matters, make him an excellent on-air commentator.

"The election of a new Pope is a significant historical event in international politics and in the life of the Catholic Church," states Sylvester. "King's is very proud that our own Fr. Michael has taken on this exciting opportunity to represent our community in Rome."

Father Béchar completed his undergraduate degree at King's University College, and went on to study theology at St. Peter's Seminary. He was ordained as a deacon for the Diocese of London in 1994 and a presbyter in 1995, and has served at various parishes in the Diocese of London.

After completing his masters at the University of Notre Dame, he began his current position at King's in 2000. Father Béchar is the Chaplain, Director of the Office of Campus Ministry and the Pastor of Christ the King University Parish.

While at King's, he completed his Doctorate of Ministry at the Graduate Theological Foundation. He has taught a number of different courses at St. Peter's Seminary and also lectures at King's University College. He is the Chair of the King's Centre for Jewish-Catholic-Muslim Learning.

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