

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON THURSDAY, FEB. 28, 2019

---

# Venezuelan Cardinal to visit Calgary

Calgary, Alta. (Feb. 19, 2019) — Jorge Cardinal Urosa of Venezuela is coming to Calgary Saturday, March 9, 2019.

The former Archbishop of Caracas will be celebrating Mass with Calgary Bishop William McGrattan at St. Michael Catholic Community (800 85 Street SW) at 5 p.m., sharing his message of hope: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (cf. Matthew 25:35).

“I am convinced that the visit of Cardinal Urosa to our Diocese will bring much hope and consolation to our brothers and sisters who call Venezuela home,” says the bishop. “The instability in Venezuela, which has caused unimaginable suffering and devastation to its citizens, has inflicted much distress upon Venezuelans who live here.”

The socio-economic crisis in Venezuela during the past several years has been marked by violent protests, food shortages, and political unrest. Early in February, Canadians across the country rallied in different cities calling for the ouster of the nation’s embattled president, Nicolás Maduro.

In the local community, Venezuelans are looking forward to the visit as a sign of hope and comfort.

“Cardinal Urosa was always very firm in defending the human and religious rights of Venezuelan citizens,” says Augusto Bitter, a member of the Pray for Venezuela Group in Calgary. “As St. Michael has a number of Venezuelan parishioners who are very concerned about the condition of the country, his visit will uplift the community, providing a message of hope and consolation.”

Rev. John Nemanic, pastor of St. Michael’s, expressed excitement over the Cardinal’s visit.

“In his international role, I hope that he’ll share how the local church affects the universal church,” says Nemanic. “As well, as the retired bishop of Caracas, I’m eager to hear about the situation in Venezuela and how those caught in the chaos can find spiritual hope.”

-30-

**For further information about this event, contact:**

Silvia Plazas  
Pray for Venezuela Group, Calgary  
[prayforvenezuela.calgary@gmail.com](mailto:prayforvenezuela.calgary@gmail.com)  
403-796-4960

**Diocese of Calgary contact:**  
Nadia Hinds  
Director of Communications  
[nadia.hinds@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:nadia.hinds@calgarydiocese.ca)  
403-218-5520

**St. Michael Catholic Community contact:**  
Ryan Factura  
Communications Coordinator  
[rfactura@saintmichael.ca](mailto:rfactura@saintmichael.ca)  
403-249-0423 ext. 105