



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MEDIA ADVISORY:**

## **Is there a God?**

### **New debate series tackles life's big questions**

TORONTO (January 7, 2014) The faith of Canadians is changing. The 2011 National Household Survey revealed that those who do not identify with a religious tradition have doubled from 12 per cent in 1991 to 24% per cent. Yet according to 2012 research by Project Canada, nearly two thirds of adults who rarely or never attend religious services say they are receptive to increased involvement.

The unaffiliated remain intrigued by questions of faith—and the biggest of them all is God's existence.

This question will be explored at the inaugural event of the Chesterton Debate Series, sponsored by the Office of Catholic Youth and the Archdiocese of Toronto. The debate takes place on **Friday, Feb. 7, 2014 at 7 p.m.** at the Isabel Bader Theatre (93 Charles St. W.).

**Fr. Philip Cleevely, CO**, an Oxford and Cambridge educated philosophy professor at St. Philip's Seminary, will argue the Catholic position. Representing the atheist position is **Justin Trottier**, the founder of the Centre for Inquiry Canada and one of the country's foremost advocates of secularism and skeptical inquiry. **Stephen LeDrew**, longtime host and commentator of CP24, will moderate the debate.

The debate series is inspired by G.K. Chesterton, an English Catholic who is widely regarded as one of the most gifted writers and orators of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The initiative reflects one of the core goals of the Pastoral Plan of the Archdiocese of Toronto, which challenges believers to "ensure the voice of faith is heard in the public square."

Tickets cost \$10. Sales begin January 10 through online registration at [www.ocytoronto.org](http://www.ocytoronto.org).

For media passes, or to arrange an interview with Fr. Philip Cleevely or Justin Trottier, please contact the Office of Public Relations & Communications.

The Archdiocese of Toronto is Canada's largest diocese, stretching from Toronto north to Georgian Bay and from Oshawa to Mississauga. It is home to 1.9 million Catholics and 225 churches, with Mass celebrated in more than 30 languages each week.

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