



## **AMERICA/PANAMA - Conclusion of the Jubilee for the 500th anniversary of Santa Maria La Antigua, the first Church of the continent**

Panama (Agenzia Fides) - With the arrival of the Special Envoy of the Holy Father, Cardinal Antonio Cañizares Llovera, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the closing celebrations of the Jubilee for the fifth centenary of the creation of the first diocese in the continent, Santa Maria La Antigua (now Archdiocese of Panama) started in Panama. According to information Fides collected, yesterday, February 13, at the Main Auditorium of Santa María la Antigua University, the Cardinal was awarded an honorary degree in "Humanidades y Ciencias Religiosas".

As part of the closing of the Jubilee Year, this evening, February 14, the "Gran Encuentro Fe" will be held at the Mirador del Pacifico, a very big square on the boardwalk, with the participation of national well-known Catholic singers and Colombian preacher Fray Nelson Medina. The Eucharistic adoration will follow with the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

The main celebration, the closing Mass of the Jubilee will take place at the Roberto Duran Arena (Sports Centre), on Saturday afternoon, February 15. It will be presided by Cardinal Cañizares and concelebrated by His Exc. Mgr. Leopoldo Brenes, Archbishop of Managua (Nicaragua), by the Bishops of Panama and other Bishops from other parts of Central America. There will be the delegations of 8 dioceses in the Country. The Jubilee began in September 2012 (see Fides 13/09/2012). (CE) (Agenzia Fides 14/02/2014)