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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SEVEN HUNDRED TO GATHER FOR THE ARCHBISHOP'S
NINTH ANNUAL CHARITY DINNER FUNDRAISING EVENT**

On Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 7 pm, the Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, SJ, Archbishop of Ottawa, will host the ninth annual Archbishop's Charity Dinner at the Ottawa Conference and Event Centre (formerly known as Hampton Inn Ottawa and Conference Centre), 200 Coventry Road, in Ottawa. He expects to welcome more than 700 guests for this event.

The following charitable organizations have been designated as the two beneficiaries for this year's dinner:

Bruyère Continuing Care

Bruyère Continuing Care is a Catholic multi-site academic health care organization located in the Champlain region. It provides evidence-based health care and services for the vulnerable and medically complex within the diverse community it serves in French and English. The centre meets its goals through its commitment to excellence, education, research and innovation, regional partnerships and bringing care closer to home.

Bruyère was founded in 1845, by Mother Élisabeth Bruyère, a deeply committed woman who came to Bytown to help the poor, the sick and the elderly. Building on her legacy, it proudly continues her mission by providing seniors care, complex continuing care, stroke and geriatric rehabilitation, palliative care, long-term care, family medicine, affordable and supportive housing, and a wide range of outpatient services and clinics.

Respect, compassion, collaboration, accountability and learning are the fundamental values that guide how quality health care and services are provided.

In 2015, Bruyère received its accreditation from Accreditation Canada. The senior leadership team is guided by Daniel Levac, president and chief executive officer, who in turn reports to the Bruyère Board of Directors, led by John Riddle.

Action Life

Action Life is a pro-life educational organization, which was established in 1971. After the liberalization of abortion in Canada in 1969, there was an apparent need to address the humanity of the child awaiting birth and society's subsequent responsibility to protect this life.

As a non-denominational charitable organization, Action life promotes respect for every human life, from conception until natural death, through education. The objectives of Action Life are: to uphold the dignity of human life, to protect the interests of persons who are unborn, chronically or terminally ill, elderly and physically or mentally challenged. Its goal is to create in the Ottawa community a love and respect for human life in all its forms.

Action Life subscribes to the following principles:

- 1-The right to life is the basic human right on which all others depend.
- 2-All human beings have an equal right to life before and after birth.
- 3-Society has a duty to uphold and protect that right

In meeting its educational mandate, Action Life attempts to employ every possible means. It maintains an extensive pro-life resource centre for use by students from high schools through university, members of the public and churches and Action Life's Speakers' Bureau provides speakers to schools, community and church groups, Action Life holds an annual public information meeting, bringing in experts from a variety of professions and walks of life to address a particular life issue: abortion euthanasia, palliative care or stem cell research. It also helps prepare the brochure for the Diocesan Week for Life to inform parishioners on life issues and publishes a newsletter three times a year.

Fostering respect for human life through education has challenged the directors of Action Life since 1971. Acutely aware of the tremendous influence of television and radio, Action Life attempts to air pro-life educational messages when possible. Publishing articles and educational advertisements in the print media has been used frequently over the years. All educational services are provided in both French and English.

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