

ARCHDIOCESE OF OTTAWA

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**STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ottawa, February 17, 2017

ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST COMMENTS ON THE SENTENCING OF AN OTTAWA PRIEST

The Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, S.J., Archbishop of Ottawa, on learning that Jacques Faucher, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Ottawa, had been sentenced on criminal charges of indecent assault and gross indecency made the following statement:

“When Jacques Faucher was criminally charged in February of 2013, I suspended him from all ministry and prohibited him from representing himself as a Catholic priest. Given his sentencing yesterday on charges of indecent assault and gross indecency, that suspension and prohibition continue in force indefinitely.

Our diocese is committed to creating a safe environment in the Church for minors and other vulnerable persons. We are also committed to a process of justice and reconciliation for the victims of clergy abuse. Further, we follow the requirements of Canon Law and the most recent procedural requirements of the Vatican requiring that cases of the abuse of minors by priests be reported to offices of the Vatican.

We respect the decision of the courts. I invite the faithful to pray with me that healing and reconciliation will come to the victims.”

No further comment will be made at this time.

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