

**ARCHDIOCESE OF OTTAWA**

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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Ottawa, December 4, 2015

**OPENING CELEBRATION FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY**

***The Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, S.J., Archbishop of Ottawa, will preside at the opening celebration marking the beginning of the Jubilee of Mercy at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica – 385 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Papal honors will be given to certain individuals from the Archdiocese on this occasion.***

This celebration will mark the opening of the Year of Mercy in the Archdiocese of Ottawa. The Holy Year extends from the Feast of the Immaculate-Conception on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 to the feast of Christ the King on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2016. The Archbishop will bless the Door of Mercy that has been established at Notre-Dame Cathedral for this Jubilee Year. This door will be opened by the Archbishop at the beginning of the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to come to the Cathedral during this Holy Year.

During the celebration the following individuals will receive Papal Honours for exceptional service to the Church of Ottawa. You will notice that these include the Superior of the *Sœurs de la Charité d'Ottawa* and the Provincial of the *Oblats de Marie-Immaculée*, two religious communities that have been active in our diocese since its founding, as well as the Superior of the *Sœurs de l'Institut Jeanne-d'Arc*, only community of diocesan right in our archdiocese. The Archdiocese wished to honor them during the Year of Consecrated Life.

- Chaplain of His Holiness (C.S.S.) : Fr. Maurice Dionne, Pastor of *Paroisse St-Joseph* in Orleans,
- *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Medal:
  - Sister Lorraine Desjardins, Superior General of *Les Sœurs de la Charité d'Ottawa*
  - Mr. Thomas Flood, a parishioner at Holy Redeemer Parish in Kanata

- Mr. André Regnier and Mrs. Angèle Regnier, co-founders of Catholic Christian Outreach, an evangelizing body for university students
- Fr. Luc Tardif, Provincial of the *Oblats de Marie-Immaculée*
- Papal Blessing : Sister Yvette Papillon, i.j.a. and the *Sœurs de l'Institut Jeanne-d'Arc*

**The Archbishop's Pastoral Letter on the occasion of the Year of Mercy is attached to this press release.**

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