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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Ottawa, January 7, 2013

**MOST REVEREND JOSEPH-AURÈLE PLOURDE  
JANUARY 12, 1915 – JANUARY 5, 2013  
ARCHBISHOP OF OTTAWA, 1967 – 1989**

The Most Reverend Joseph-Aurèle Plourde, Emeritus Archbishop of Ottawa, after a long and generous life in the service of the Gospel, died on Saturday, January 5, 2013. Archbishop Plourde was born in 1915, the eighth of 11 children, to Antoine Plourde and Suzanne Albert. He remained proud of, and attached to, his roots in Madawaska County of New Brunswick. After elementary and collegial studies in his native province, the Archbishop pursued his studies at the Collège Bourget in Rigaud (Québec). After university studies in Moncton, he entered Holy Heart Seminary in Halifax where he began what would be a lifelong commitment to ministry in the Roman Catholic Church.

Following his ordination to the priesthood in 1944 by Bishop LeBlanc, then Bishop of Bathurst, Archbishop Plourde pursued graduate studies in social sciences at the Institut catholique de Paris and at the University of Ottawa where he obtained a Licentiate in Social Studies. His ministry as pastor, social worker and teacher was exercised in a number of parishes and institutions in New Brunswick.

In 1964, he was named by Pope Paul VI as Titular Bishop of Lapda and auxiliary to the Bishop of Alexandria (Ontario). After a short time as the Apostolic Administrator of Alexandria, Joseph-Aurèle Plourde was named the eighth bishop and seventh archbishop of Ottawa in 1967. In addition to the responsibilities of diocesan bishop during the years which saw the implementation of the documents of the Second Vatican Council which he attended as a Council Father, Archbishop Plourde served as President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (1969 to 1971) and was Vice-President and a founding member of the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops (now the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario). After his retirement in 1989 as Archbishop of Ottawa, Archbishop Plourde continued an active ministry as a preacher of retreats, conference speaker and author.

In his sermon on the occasion of his installation as Archbishop of Ottawa on February 22, 1967, Archbishop Plourde addressed these words to the diocesan community: "All the good that I have the duty to begin, it is with you that I will do it. You will come with complete trust to inform

your bishop about your needs, your successes or your failures. And I will use every occasion to consult with you, to encourage you, to help you. You will give that all to me without asking whether I merit it but simply because I have need of it in order to be the instrument of Christ, and in order to serve you.”

The Solemn Translation of the Archbishop’s mortal remains to Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica (Sussex & St. Patrick, Ottawa) will take place on Thursday, January 10, at 7 p.m. A Prayer Vigil will take place at 7:30 p.m. Visits will continue until 9 p.m.

On Friday, January 11, the Cathedral will be open for visits from 9 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Archbishop Terrence Prendergast will preside at the Funeral Eucharist which will begin at 11 a.m. Immediately following the funeral mass, entombment of Archbishop Plourde’s mortal remains will take place in the Archbishops’ Chapel of the Cathedral.

In memory of Archbishop Plourde, donations may be made to the Retired Priests’ Pension Fund c/o Diocesan Centre, 1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, ON K1H 6K9.

May the Lord grant to his faithful servant the reward of his labours.

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