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## **Father Francis Morrisey, OMI Receives Canada's Highest Distinction in Catholic Health Care**

Winnipeg - The 2002 Performance Citation Award, Canada's highest distinction in Catholic health care, has been awarded to Father Francis Morrisey, OMI. Father Morrisey has spent much of his life teaching Canon Law at St. Paul University in Ottawa and has shared his experience and wisdom as a consultant to the Vatican, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and numerous religious communities throughout the world. The presentation of the award took place on Sunday, May 5 during the annual convention of the Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC), in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Performance Citation Award is presented each year by the CHAC to an individual or group that exemplifies leadership in an activity, program or project judged worthy of national recognition for its strengthening of the Christian community in an extraordinary way.

Throughout his professional career, Father Morrisey has been able to combine both the theory and the practice of Canon Law. He has written over 200 articles in the areas of Canon Law, Canadian Church history, and Catholic health care.

Father Morrisey is no stranger to the concerns of Catholic health care in Canada. Health care restructuring has brought with it new challenges for sponsors and owners of Catholic hospitals and homes. "In recent years, we have seen Fr. Morrisey assist many religious congregations across Canada who have sought his advice and assistance. His response to those requests has been generous and much appreciated. The counsel he provides is always prompt and wise," said Dr. Leo Klug, CHAC Chairperson.

As one nominator remarked: "Father Morrisey has a particular gift in explaining Canon Law in terms the various audiences can understand. The depth and breadth of his knowledge eminently qualifies him to answer a multitude of questions, thus alleviating concerns." He has responded with great distinction to the needs of Catholic health care in these changing times.