



Catholic  
Health  
Association  
of Canada

## Media Release

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For Immediate Release

# Rev. Michael Prieur Receives Canada's Highest Distinction in Catholic Health Care



Rev. Michael Prieur

(Ottawa) – The 2008 *Performance Citation Award* – Canada's highest distinction in Catholic health care – has been awarded to Father Michael Prieur, in recognition of his outstanding commitment to the values of the Catholic health care ministry.

The presentation of the award took place on Saturday, May 3, 2008, during the banquet of the annual convention of the Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC), in Quebec City.

The presentation of the *Performance Citation Award* was initiated in 1981. It is presented each year by the CHAC to an individual who exemplifies leadership in an activity, program or project judged worthy of national recognition for its strengthening of the Catholic health ministry in an extraordinary way.

Father Prieur's impressive biography speaks to his qualifications for this special award. He received his Doctorate in Theology from San' Anselmo in Rome and has been teaching Moral and Sacramental Theology at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario, since 1969. As a specialist in bioethics for over 35 years, he is consultant to St. Joseph's Health Care in London, the Catholic Health Association of Canada, and Canadian Catholic bishops.

At the national level, Father Prieur's unselfish dedication and leadership in the development of ethics resources for Catholic health care has been evident most clearly in his contributions toward the development of the *Health Ethics Guide*, which is used by all Catholic health care organizations throughout Canada. He served as consultant and author in the development

of the 1991 *Health Care Ethics Guide*, and played a central role in the preparation of the *Health Ethics Guide*, published in 2000. He currently serves on the Steering Committee that is overseeing the preparation of a revised guide.

Father Prieur has made an enormous contribution, in particular, to St. Joseph's Health Care in London. Over the past 38 years he has authored more than 30 position papers for the organization's bioethics committee. In many cases those papers and procedures have been used as a model by many other Catholic health care organizations.

One nominator stated: "Not only does Father Prieur provide excellent insight and guidance, he dispenses it with a wonderful sense of humor. His delightful, enthusiastic and positive personality make him a natural leader. Father Prieur's love for his ministry is infectious, and he imparts this love in everything he does."

In presenting the award, Dianne Doyle, Chairperson of the CHAC Board of Directors, commented that "Father Michael is rooted in the great legacy that has given rise to Catholic health care in Canada. His pursuit of excellence and dedication to the mission of Catholic health care has benefitted and inspired many of us throughout Canada."

NOTE: A photo of the award recipient is available upon request (JPG format).

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The Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) is a national Christian association supportive of health care in the tradition of the Catholic Church. As the national voice for Catholic health care, the CHAC's mission is to strengthen and support the ministry of Catholic health care organizations and providers. Its membership includes seven provincial associations; 23 sponsors/owners of health care organizations; 90 hospitals and long-term care organizations; health care professionals; and affiliate organizations and individuals.