



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS JAMES M. HAYES DIES AT 92 YEARS OF AGE

HALIFAX, NS –AUGUST 2, 2016 – In the early hours of August 2 Archbishop Emeritus James M. Hayes, retired Archbishop of Halifax, died in hospital. He was highly regarded for his leadership and pastoral care of the people entrusted to him in the Church of Halifax. He was very much loved by all those for whom he provided pastoral accompaniment in their times of illness and suffering. In his service to the Church he was a leader in the liturgical renewal and an effective advocate for Christian unity and interreligious dialogue. In this he expressed his vision derived from his active participation at the Second Vatican Council.

Hayes served as the 9th archbishop of the former Archdiocese of Halifax from 1967-1990. In 1965 he participated in the Second Vatican Council, a key moment of change in the Roman Catholic Church worldwide. This experience greatly influenced his leadership of the Roman Catholic community in Nova Scotia and beyond. He sought to bring about a renewed Church rooted in the teachings of Vatican II.

As archbishop, he travelled widely across Canada, speaking, teaching, and preaching to an ever-expanding variety of groups of all faiths, occupations, and ages; with a particular connection to the Italian community of Halifax. He stressed the pastoral role of the bishop by making himself accessible to all. In all his interactions he witnessed the love of God; a God whom he deeply loved, was faithful to, and believed in.

Most Reverend Anthony Mancini, current archbishop of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth, remembers Hayes fondly, “In the 10 years I’ve known him here in Halifax, I’ve always found him to be a welcoming, gentle, and kind man who has always been supportive of bringing the Church forward to a credible expression of the Gospel.”

When Archbishop Hayes retired, he continued to serve in full-time ministry caring for the sick and the dying, as a chaplain in Palliative Care at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre in Halifax until he officially retired from this service in April 2012. Afterwards, he voluntarily offered his ministry of care until his own health prevented him from continuing.

Details regarding visitation and funeral are yet to be completed.

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