



DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTETOWN

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

In Memoriam: Archbishop James MacDonald, C.S.C. (1925–2025)

A Message from Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, C.S.M.A.

With deep sadness, yet with sure hope in the Resurrection, I share with you the sad news of the passing of the Most Reverend James MacDonald, C.S.C., 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Charlottetown, who died on May 30, 2025, at the age of 100, after a lengthy illness.

Born April 28, 1925, in Whycocomagh, Nova Scotia, Archbishop James lived a life of faithful service to God and the Church. He was ordained a priest in 1953 and subsequently received episcopal ordination in 1978, serving as the Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton. He then served as Bishop of Charlottetown from 1982 to 1991, and later as Archbishop of St. John's, Newfoundland, where he served until his retirement in 2001.

As Bishop of Charlottetown, Archbishop James offered steady and visionary leadership during a time of significant change in the Church. Those who knew him speak of his quiet strength, pastoral wisdom, and his deep love for the people of this Island.

Earlier this spring, on the joyous occasion of his 100th birthday, I wrote to Archbishop James to extend the congratulations and prayers of the clergy, religious, and faithful of our Diocese. In that letter, I conveyed our gratitude for his faithful and generous service and his lasting legacy. It is truly touching to reflect on a century of life devoted to faithful service to the Gospel.

Archbishop James was a man of humility and deep compassion who encouraged and uplifted others, calling forth their gifts with kindness and hope. In the spirit of the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, he sought to “make God known, loved, and served” in all that he did.

We now commend him to the mercy of God and ask you to join in prayer:

Let us pray in gratitude for the life and ministry of Archbishop James MacDonald, who dedicated his life to God's service and the shepherding of the faithful in our diocese and beyond. We thank you, Lord, for the wisdom and leadership, the faith he nurtured, and the love he inspired in all who knew him.

As he now journeys from this earthly life, welcome him into your eternal rest. May he enjoy the rewards of his faithful service and find joy in the communion of saints.

Help us, Lord, to honour his legacy by living out the values he championed: love, compassion, and faithfulness. May his example inspire us to continue the work of the Gospel and serve one another in humility and grace.

May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Fraternally in Christ,

✠ Joseph Dabrowski, C.S.M.A.
Bishop of Charlottetown