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## DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# PRESS RELEASE

## BISHOP EMERITUS THOMAS G. DORAN HAS DIED AT AGE 80

ROCKFORD, IL—The Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran, Bishop Emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Rockford died peacefully Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016 at his residence in Presence Cor Mariae here. Bishop Doran was 80 years of age.

Bishop Doran was appointed the eighth Bishop of the Rockford Diocese on April 19, 1994 and served until he retired on March 20, 2012. He was the second native born priest of the Rockford Diocese to serve as its bishop.

**In announcing the death of his predecessor, Bishop David J. Malloy released this statement:**

“This morning Bishop Thomas Doran, Bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Rockford passed away. As Bishop Doran’s successor, I wish to express my own sorrow at the loss of my predecessor and friend. I express as well my sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Bishop Doran, especially his sister Susanne.

“At the same time, this is a moment to thank God for the gift of such a faithful servant to Our Lord, the Church and the Diocese of Rockford.

“Before his consecration as Bishop of Rockford in 1994, Thomas Doran was ordained a priest in 1961. As a parish priest ministering to souls, as a high school teacher forming the minds and consciences of young people and as an assistant to Bishop Loras T. Lane, Bishop Doran combined his formidable intellectual gifts with his faith and love for the Church.

“Bishop Doran was sent to Rome to study and became a leading national expert in the Church’s Canon Law. He then gave service to the Holy Father and Universal Church by serving as a judge at the Tribunal of the Roman Rota from 1986 until his consecration as Bishop of Rockford.

“He then continued his generous contributions to the wider Church by serving on and at times leading the Committee on Canonical Affairs of the Bishops Conference and serving as a member of the

Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura. On March 2, 2001, Pope John Paul II named Bishop Doran a bishop member of the Congregation for the Clergy.

"Most of all, as a son of Rockford, Bishop Doran loved his home diocese. From the Mississippi to McHenry County Bishop Doran knew and loved the parishes and the faithful. He worked tirelessly to strengthen the Catholic faith in northern Illinois by supporting Catholic education, outreach to the poor, the protection of young people and the holiness of the clergy. In a special way, many of our priests have a particular attachment to Bishop Doran, having been seminarians during his time of service and having been ordained by him. Likewise, he has ordained many of the permanent deacons of the Diocese of Rockford.

"As we thank God for the life, priesthood and service of Bishop Doran, I ask for prayers for the repose of his soul. Eternal Rest grant unto him!"

Funeral arrangements are being completed by Fitzgerald Funeral Home and Crematory, Rockford. Services for Bishop Doran will be held at the Cathedral of St. Peter, 1243 N. Church St., Rockford. Public viewing of the body of Bishop Doran will be Thursday, September 8 beginning with evening prayer at 4 p.m. with viewing to continue until 8 p.m. Public viewing will also be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 9. Bishop Doran's funeral Mass will be celebrated by Bishop David J. Malloy and priests of the Rockford Diocese on Friday, Sept. 9 at 11 a.m.

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