

**Chaplain General Commendation  
To His Excellency Most Reverend André Vallée, p.m.é.  
First Roman Catholic Military Ordinary of Canada (1988 – 1996) and  
Bishop of Hearst (1996 – 2005)**



Bishop André Vallée,  
Friday 30th January 2015, Motherhouse of the  
Society of Foreign Missions.  
Laval, Québec.

Ottawa, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

Dear colleagues and friends of the Royal Canadian Chaplain Service

It is with sadness that we have learned, on Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, of the death of our friend Bishop André Vallée.

At the request of Brigadier General John Fletcher, I am sending to you the text of commendation that he bestowed, as Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces, on Bishop Vallée on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the unification of the Branches of Canadian Forces Chaplaincy. You will also find the photos taken during the presentation ceremony of this honour which took place Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at the motherhouse of the Priests of Foreign Missions (p.m.é.), located in Laval (Pont-Viau), Quebec. The presentation of this commendation was done by Colonel Father Alain Guèvremont, Director – Chaplain Services, in the presence of Father Martin Laliberté, General Superior of the p.m.é., Father Gervais Turgeon, Regional Superior p.m.é., Lieutenant Colonel Sylvain Maurais, Principal Chaplain Roman Catholic, and in the company of a good number of his brother missionaries.

Principal Chaplain – Roman Catholic,

Sylvain Maurais  
Lieutenant-Colonel

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Chaplain General Commendation  
Presented to  
His Excellency Most Reverend André Vallée, p.m.é.,  
First Roman Catholic Military Ordinary

On this twentieth anniversary of the amalgamation of the Chaplain services of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces renders thanks to His Excellency Most Reverend André Vallée, p.m.é., for the exceptional support he has given to military members, their families and the entire National Defence Team.

As the first Roman Catholic Bishop assigned to the Canadian Armed Forces on a full-time basis, Bishop Vallée was a man of vision. Inspired with a missionary and ecumenical spirit, he epitomized the vision of a Church open to the world, calling on both men and women – married

or single, ordained or lay – to serve as Roman Catholic chaplains in the Canadian Armed Forces. In 1993, he continued to innovate by supporting the creation of the Canadian Forces Chaplain School and Centre. He recognized that this decision would lead to the merger of the Protestant and Catholic chaplaincy services under the leadership of a single Chaplain General. He was a key participant in the conversations with the Canadian Council of Churches on Chaplaincy Committee that led to the signing of the London Accord in 1995. This historic pact between the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches took place with the aim of providing spiritual support adapted to the faith needs of all members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families. This initiative paved the way for the evolution of the Canadian Armed Forces chaplaincy into the first multi-faith, tri-service chaplaincy in NATO.

Through his solidarity, good humour and generosity, Bishop André Vallée has been an exceptional model of a life devoted to the service of others. This is why he richly merits this commendation, a testament to the power of the witness offered by a man profoundly rooted in an unshakeable faith in God. True to his motto, for those around him he has always been, and remains, a source of Joy and Hope (*Gaudium et Spes*).

The Chaplain General,

John M. Fletcher, CD, QHC  
Brigadier-General

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Pictures of the presentation of the Chaplain General's Commendation to Bishop Vallée in Laval (Pont-Viau)



Colonel Alain Guèvremont, Director – Chaplain Services, with Bishop André Vallée



Father Gervais Turgeon, Regional Superior, p.m.é, Father Martin Laliberté, General Superior of the Society of Foreign Missions, and Colonel Alain Guèvremont.



Colonel Alain Guèvremont, Lieutenant-Colonel Sylvain Maurais and Bishop André Vallée with the Chaplain General's Commendation in hand.