



OBLATE FATHERS OF ASSUMPTION PROVINCE

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Office of the Provincial

December 8, 2008

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.
Governor General of Canada

Rideau Hall
1 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A1

Your Excellency,

Re: Return of the Order of Canada

We write to you today, December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Principal Patroness of our Congregation, on account of the recent decision by your office and the committee responsible for nominations to provide an Order of Canada to Henry Morgentaler, the noted Toronto abortionist.

The Order of Canada was seen by most Canadians up until very recently as vehicle for the promotion of Canadian unity and pride through the noting and celebration of the accomplishments of outstanding Canadians.

The appointment of Mr. Morgentaler to this once esteemed Order, against the clear and vociferously expressed concerns of **millions** of Canadians, has both strained our national unity and tarnished the honourable reputation of this award.

Whatever one's views on the status of the unborn, the fact that the Order of Canada was given to someone whose "unique" contribution to the Canadian body politic consists of the procurement of tens of thousands of abortions does poor service in view of the many people who have given of their lives dedicated to making Canada a better nation, as the motto of the order properly invokes, though helping others live dignified lives and providing service that all Canadians can universally take pride in.

As a Roman Catholic religious community that is part and parcel of the fabric of Canada, through its history and its ministry to natives, settlers and through to the present day and the arrival of more recent immigrants from many lands, the Oblate order, and our religious province, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate – Assumption Province, hereby returns the Orders of Canada once granted to members of our community Fr.

Anthony Sylla OMI and Fr. Michael Smith OMI. The former spent his life encouraging and supporting immigrants in the Canadian prairie in the early part of the 20th century (his actual award was lost after his death) and the latter is known for his achievements in the area of support for the dignity of our senior citizens, married couples and families as well as for spearheading the creation of the largest parish based Credit Union in North America.

Both of these priests were outspoken in their commitment to the inviolable dignity of the human person from the time of conception to natural death. They would have been the first to acknowledge that their commitment to their fellow man outweighed the need for membership in an Order that did not hold to the ideals to which they committed their lives.

We hope that this gesture is understood as a sign of our astonishment and outrage at the exploitation of the Order of Canada in the interests of an ideology of death, division and indignity which has resulted in the clinical murder of over 110,000 Canadians every year who never had the chance to deserve a better country.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Blazejak".

Fr. Janusz Blazejak OMI
Provincial Superior