



STATEMENT REGARDING SR. RUTH HENNESSEY CSJ

May 19, 2020

Rest in Peace – Sr. Ruth Hennessey CSJ

Sr. Ruth Hennessey CSJ passed away on Thursday, May 14, 2020. Sr. Ruth leaves behind a rich legacy in her ministry as a Catholic teacher and since her retirement from teaching, her work supporting the refugees. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough is the Refugee Sponsorship Agreement Holder with the federal government for the Peterborough-Kawartha area. Sr. Ruth administered this Agreement for many years - and many groups and individuals of all faiths were served well by her leadership, wisdom, and support. Sr. Ruth became especially well-known for this work with refugees and through her dedicated support and encouragement, she assisted many families and individuals to build a new life in Canada.

For many years she oversaw Casa Maria, a place that has welcomed refugee families to our community here in Peterborough. In the past few years, she spearheaded the initiative to receive Syrian refugees, a venture in which many of our parishes and numerous other church and community groups participated. Recognizing her great contribution to refugee resettlement, Sr. Ruth received the Peterborough-Kawartha Women's Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.

Most recently, Sr. Ruth led a video production project entitled, *Resettled*. The intent of this project is to highlight the good works which parish groups in our Diocese have undertaken following Sr. Ruth's example and also to inspire others to consider undertaking work with refugees in the future. Sr. Ruth has lived her vocation well and she leaves to us an example to inspire our own outreach and care for refugees.

Sr. Ruth's death is a significant loss to the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph, our Diocese and the community. Our sincere sympathy to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, her family, and all those who knew and loved Sr. Ruth.

May she rest in the embrace of God whom she served so faithfully and generously.

†Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehm
Bishop of Peterborough