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Archbishop Leonard P. Blair Reacts to the Death of His Eminence Jean-Louis Pierre Cardinal Tauran

HARTFORD, Conn. (July 6, 2018) The Most Rev. Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of Hartford, adds his prayers for the repose of the soul of His Eminence Jean-Louis Pierre Cardinal Tauran to those of the Holy Father Pope Francis and other Vatican officials as the Cardinal's death was announced earlier today. Cardinal Tauran was born in Bordeaux, France in 1943, and he was ordained a priest at the age of 26. A churchman all of his life, with a long and distinguished ministry of service with and for the Holy See in the Vatican diplomatic service since 1975, he most recently served as the President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. In 2014, he was named the Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church. (Upon the election of Pope Francis, it was he, as Cardinal Proto-deacon, who made the historic announcement, known as, "*Habemus Papam*" from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.)

Cardinal Tauran had been in the Archdiocese of Hartford seeking treatment for Parkinson's disease. He also intended to give a lecture on interreligious dialogue in light of his recent visit to Saudi Arabia to the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist in Meriden. His Eminence had inaugurated their new chapel in 2014, which he encouraged them to build given their increasing numbers.

Our sympathies go to Cardinal Tauran's family, to his many friends and co-workers at the Vatican, and to the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist who never left his side during his hospitalization. May God grant him a place of refreshment, light and peace with all the Saints.