



## Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

40 North Main Avenue, Albany, New York 12203

**Monday, February 6, 2012**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

**Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle**

**Chancellor for Public Information**

**(W) 518-453-6612**

**(H) 518-489-3204**

MEMORIAL MASS FOR BISHOP ESTABROOK

TO BE HELD AT ALBANY'S CATHEDRAL

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany for Bishop Joseph W. Estabrook.

Bishop Estabrook, a priest of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese who had served since 2004 as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, died on Saturday, February 4 at the age of 67 in Houston, Texas, following a 15-month battle with pancreatic cancer.

His funeral Mass will be celebrated by the Military Archdiocese at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Alexandria, Virginia on Friday, February 10. Viewing hours will be held in Albany at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, February 11 from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m.. Interment will take place at Calvary Cemetery in Glenmont, New York following the Memorial Mass.

Bishop Howard Hubbard, who will be the principal celebrant of the Memorial Mass, said: "Bishop Estabrook was a man of solid spirituality and pastoral sensitivity, and his premature passing marks a real loss for the Church and for the military. As a priest of the Albany diocese, he ministered effectively both in parish work and as director of our diocesan office of family life. As a Navy chaplain, he blended a gentle disposition with moral strength; as a result, military men and women frequently sought him out at times of special stress. He also served as an effective retreat master for Navy personnel and their families, as well as a capable recruiter of military chaplains. My sympathy goes especially to Bishop Estabrook's dear mother and his family, and my prayers accompany him as he goes to his reward in the peace of God's presence."

*We are God's people sharing a responsibility to witness God's unconditional love  
and to bring Christ's healing presence to our world.*

The homilist at Saturday's Memorial Mass will be Rev. Richard Vosko, a nationally-recognized liturgical architect who is an Albany diocesan priest and a classmate of Bishop Estabrook.

Bishop Estabrook was ordained to the priesthood by Albany's Bishop Edwin Broderick in 1969. He then served as associate pastor at the parish of St. Vincent dePaul in Albany until 1970 and as director of the Diocesan Family Life Bureau until 1977.

On July 4, 1977, he entered the chaplaincy of the United State Navy, where he was assigned to several ships throughout Europe and then to the Marine Corps Education Command at Quantico, Virginia. He later served at the Navy Chaplain School in Newport, Rhode Island, at the Chief of Chaplains Office in Washington, D.C. , as fleet chaplain of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and as command chaplain at the Marine Corps base in Hawaii.

Bishop Estabrook became a Captain in the U.S. Navy in 1995 and his military honors included, among others, the Legion of Merit and the Navy Commendation Medal.

He is survived by his mother Genevieve, his sister Mary Ann and his brother Timothy.