



Prague 19th April 2013

Dear Mr. Consul General, dear Ray,

please allow me to express you in the name of the Catholic Church in the Czech Republic my feeling of compassion, grief and shock over the great loss of many human lives and property due to a massive explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas. The impact of the event is even greater given by the fact that the state of Texas in particular is inhabited by over one US citizens who still regard themselves as Czech to whom you serve selflessly as Consul General.

You and many of our brothers and sisters living in Texas have been very good to us over the years and helped our country and church tremendously. We heard on the news your voice; we have read the sad news that two of the victims are your cousins who gave their lives as voluntary firemen. The chemical fertilizer which is meant to enable life and growth has brought death and destruction to so many apparently due to a lack security measures in the plant.

In this difficult moment I would like to assure you that we are with you and your compatriots in your pain and grief. We are not only feeling sorry but as Christians we pray for the souls of the dead, for the pain of those who grieve, for the pain of those who lost their homes. I like to remember the days of my visit of the United States and of our visit of Prague last year when we had the wonderful opportunity to meet.

+ Cardinal Dominik Duka OP
Archbishop of Prague
President of the Czech Bishops' Conference

Raymond J. Snokhous
Honorary Consul General
Stephenson and Snokhous, 4544 Post Oak Place Dr
Suite 378
Houston, TX, 77027
United States of America