



Prague 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Your Excellency,

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 two very recent events in your homeland United States of America. One is the result of evil hatred piled up in the hearts of two young men having exploded on the street of Boston, Massachusetts; the second is a great loss of many human lives and property due to a massive explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas. The first event brings us all to stand still in awe and ponder on how evil one human being may be to another regardless whether it is a beautiful young woman or a small child. The impact of the second event is given by the fact that the state of Texas in particular is inhabited by over one US citizens who still regard themselves as Czech. We are in contact with some of them and they have been very good to us over the years and helped our country and church.

We think especially about their representative Raymond J. Snokhous the Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic for the State of Texas who himself has lost two of his cousins firemen.

We are not only feeling sorry but being Christian we pray for the souls of the dead, for the pain of those who grieve and for conversion of the hearts unable to love. I thought it may be good to let you know about these our feelings. We are with you in the struggle of the present time which seems to be a struggle over the future of the world we live in.

+ Cardinal Dominik Duka OP  
*Archbishop of Prague*  
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His Excellency  
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