



Prague 19th April 2013

Your Eminence,
dear brother Archbishop,

It has been a very short time since we both had the opportunity to meet personally and to witness the working of the Holy Spirit in the Church through the conclave. What a wonderful result of our prayers we can see in the Holy Father Francis the first American on the Chair of Saint Peter.

Your Eminence, 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 here is even greater given by the fact that the state of Texas in particular is inhabited by over one million of US citizens who still regard themselves as Czech and they have always kept the bond of blood and friendship with their land of origin. Many of these our brothers and sisters living in Texas have been very good to us over the years and helped our country and church tremendously.

The chemical fertilizer which is meant to enable life and growth has brought death and destruction to so many apparently due to a lack of security measures in the plant. Many victims have been brave firemen who put their lives at risk in order to save others. Even the Honorary Consul of Czech Republic in Texas Ray Snokhous whom I know very well has lost two of his relatives there.

In this difficult moment I would like to assure you that we are with you and the people entrusted to your care as their Shepherd 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.

In Christ

+ Cardinal Dominik Duka OP
Archbishop of Prague
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