

Vatican City, 16th April, 2013

Your Eminence,

It is with wholehearted brotherly concern that I hasten to express my personal and sincerest condolences, as well as that of my Dicastery's, for the horrifying twin explosions which caused the heartbreaking bloodshed and injuries that yesterday shook Christians and people of good will all over the world.

While our words will never be able to adequately express our sorrow and shock at the magnitude of this tragedy, it is however, during this terrible time of grief, that I wish to assure Your Eminence, the local church and the entire community of Boston of our complete closeness, solidarity and support.

Please know that we stand prayerfully beside you and all the people of Massachusetts, beseeching God that those who have lost their lives find peace and comfort in His eternal beatitude, that He stretch out His healing hand upon all the injured, and that they, their relatives and the relatives of the deceased may find strength throughout this most difficult path of pain, anguish and bereavement.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ hu ceurtaglia +Vincenzo Paglia President

H. E. Cardinal Seán Patrick O'MALLEY, OFM Cap Archbishop Archdiocese of Boston 66 Brooks Drive Braintree

MA 02184 U.S.A.