



Office of the President

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Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of New York
President

September 25, 2012

Most Reverend Ignatius Ayau Kaigama
Archbishop of Jos
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria
Abuja, Nigeria

Your Grace:

It is with great sadness that we write to express our condolences and solidarity in the wake of this Sunday's bombing at St. John's Cathedral in Bauchi. The suicide bombing was horrible and totally unacceptable. The perpetrators must be brought to justice. It is sobering to note that the deaths and injuries could have been even worse had the Church not taken security precautions after the earlier bombing of a church in Bauchi last June.

We have noted and share your courageous response: "This latest attack is really shocking, because one can never be sure of where, when and how the terrorists will attack. But we must go on with our lives and our work, and not be intimidated by violence. Life goes on."

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones in this attack and with the scores of others who were wounded. We know that Christians and Muslims will strive to find the courage and the love to continue building right relationships that will promote peace. We hope that the perpetrators of violence and terror will be brought to justice.

We want to assure you of our unconditional support to the Church in Nigeria at this difficult time. Bishop Pates' recent visit to Nigeria is a direct expression of that support. Archbishop John Onaiyekan's address at our September 12th International Religious Freedom Conference in Washington gave witness to the severity of the threat of violence and to the positive and courageous role of the Church in Nigeria. We are also organizing assistance for your programs in Jos with the youth.

We will be contacting the U.S. State Department to urge them to intensify their support for Nigerian government and civil society efforts to end these senseless attacks, to address the root causes of the violence, and to rebuild the social fabric of the country.

With prayers for peace and kindest personal regards,

Fraternally in Christ,

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His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York
President, United States Conference of Catholic
Bishops

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The Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines
Chairman, Committee on International Justice and
Peace