



## ***Office of the President***

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3100 • FAX 202-541-3166

Cardinal Francis George, OMI  
Archbishop of Chicago

September 12, 2008

Imam Ronald Shaheed  
C/o Ministry of W. Deen Mohammed  
929 W.171th Street  
Hazel Crest, Illinois 60429

Dear Imam Shaheed,

I would like to offer the condolences of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to all those who will carry on the outstanding work of Imam Warith Deen Mohammed. Members of our Conference have known Imam W. D. Mohammed as a leading voice of tolerance and wisdom in the Muslim American community. He has also been at our side in the field of interreligious cooperation, particularly through his decade-long friendship with Chiara Lubich and the Focolare Movement. I pray that Catholics and Muslims of all races and ethnic origins will make their own Chiara's "commitment to actively carry forward a peaceful revolution of universal brotherhood" which both she and Imam Mohammed believed to be God's plan for humanity.

Imam W. D. Mohammed's message was also welcomed by our late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, when the Imam delivered a message on behalf of the Muslim faithful in October, 1999, at St. Peter's Square in Rome. I pray that the day of the Imam's death may become a day on which to reflect on the life and message of those who have put the religious truths we share into daily practice. The bounds of love for God and neighbor are stronger than the culture of death; the practice of dialogue and humanitarian service form the foundation of an enduring edifice of peace for the entire human family.

In remembering Imam Deen Mohammed, we are grateful for the occasion to rededicate ourselves to shared ideals of peace-making, bridge-building and forgiveness. We also extend our sincere wishes for Ramadan of deep spiritual renewal.

Sincerely yours,

Francis Cardinal George, OMI  
Archbishop of Chicago  
President