



*Office of the President*

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Most Reverend William S. Skylstad, D.D.  
Bishop of Spokane

July 14, 2006

Telesphore Cardinal Toppo  
President  
Catholic Bishops' Conference of India  
C.B.C.I. Centre  
1 Ashok Place  
Near Gole Dakkhana  
New Delhi-110 001  
India

**FAX #: (011) 91 22 2336-4615**

Dear Cardinal Toppo:

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I wish to express our deep sense of sorrow at the loss of so many innocent people as a result of the series of bombings in Mumbai on Tuesday, July 11. There can be no justification for attacks on innocent civilians. We unequivocally condemn these heinous acts of senseless violence.

At this time of tragedy for all of the people of India, we especially offer our prayers for all families and individuals who mourn the loss of their loved ones. We also pray that God will heal those injured and afflicted with anguish by these terrible acts of terror. Our sincere hope is that this violence will not lead to further social tensions and an escalation of violence.

I wish to express the solidarity of the Church in the United States with the people of India and with the Church in India as it speaks a message of hope and consolation at this time of national mourning.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend William S. Skylstad  
Bishop of Spokane  
President