November 16, 2015

His Eminence André Cardinal Vingt-Trois
Archbishop of Paris
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Your Eminence,

Please convey to our Catholic brothers and sisters in Paris, and through them to the citizens of your city, our condolences and the assurance of our prayers following the terrible violence suffered by so many last Friday evening. The thoughts and concerns of the Bishops of Canada and all the Catholics of our land are especially with the dead and the wounded, their families, friends and communities, as well as the medical and emergency response teams, police and security officials. Moreover, the impact of this horror affects all of France and Europe, extending even to every segment of society throughout our world.

Together with Pope Francis, yourself, and your brother Bishops in France, we join our voices with those of other religious leaders who remind the world that peace, respect for the human person, and integral human development remain essential criteria for all religions and their faithful. These are the values and principles which inspire and strengthen our common determination that, with God's grace and the goodwill of all people, peace and justice will endure, and be more appealing and effective than violence and hatred.

Inspired by the example and teaching of Jesus Christ who calls us to faith, hope and love, let us continue in our efforts to build a civilization that protects human security and dignity by respecting the common good and is based on reverence for human life.

May the patron saints of Paris – Genevieve, whose courage and prayers are credited for saving the city from invasion, and Denis, its first Bishop and a martyr renowned for the power of his words – intercede for the City of Light in this hour of darkness and comfort its citizens again with hope and healing.

Fraternally in Our Lord,

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton and
President of the Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops