

[CCCB unofficial translation]

Archdiocese of Paris

Paris, November 24, 2015

Dear friends,

Following the tragic attacks which shook Paris and Saint-Denis on Friday, November 13, 2015, messages of friendship, compassion, and prayer have come to me from around the world.

They are so numerous that it is not possible for me to reply to each one personally, but I do want to thank you for yours.

These testimonies manifest the resonance that this drama evoked globally, and they show that it is our common humanity that was wounded and feels concerned.

As I have had the opportunity to say to the Catholics of Paris, faced with human violence, may we receive the grace of a steadfast heart that is without hate. May moderation, temperance, and the self-mastery we have demonstrated up to now be confirmed in the weeks and months to come; may no one be overcome by panic or hatred.

A few days from now we enter the season of Advent, which will prepare us to receive the Prince of Peace and approach the Holy Year of Mercy. We entrust the victims and the wounded and those close to them to the Lord, and we ask him to let each of us be a peacemaker and a witness to divine mercy. We should never lose hope for peace, if we work for justice.

+André Cardinal Vingt-Trois
Archbishop of Paris