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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Prot. No. – 5470

17 April 2007

Your Excellency:

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has instructed me to convey the following message:

THE MOST REVEREND FRANCIS X. DILORENZO  
BISHOP OF RICHMOND

DEEPLY SADDENED BY NEWS OF THE SHOOTING AT VIRGINIA TECH, HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY THE ASSURANCE OF HIS HEARTFELT PRAYERS FOR THE VICTIMS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THIS SENSELESS TRAGEDY, HE ASKS GOD OUR FATHER TO CONSOLE ALL THOSE WHO MOURN AND TO GRANT THEM THAT SPIRITUAL STRENGTH WHICH TRIUMPHS OVER VIOLENCE BY THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS, HOPE AND RECONCILING LOVE.

CARDINAL TARCISIO BERTONE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

I take this opportunity to join the Holy Father in extending to you, to the educational community at Virginia Tech, to the families of the victims and to all the people of the Diocese of Richmond, my deepest sympathy and an assurance of prayer. May Our Lady of Consolation intercede for all those who suffer from this tragedy. With sentiments of esteem, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Archbishop Pietro Sambì  
Apostolic Nuncio

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The Most Reverend Francis X. DiLorenzo  
Bishop of Richmond  
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