



## St. Barbara Catholic Church

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April 18, 2013

Dear People of St. Barbara,

I think all of us were shocked and deeply saddened by the horrific bombings at the Finish Line of the Boston Marathon on April 15th that killed and maimed so many innocent people. These terrorist bombings shattered a joyous event of runners and spectators who gathered in Boston from all around the world. These calculated and planned bombings were grievously evil, showing complete disregard for human life. I found myself crying with tears of both sadness and anger for the innocent victims and their families. I admire the quick and heroic response of the first responders and civilians who ran to the aid of those who were injured. While TV viewers were shown videos of the chaos and bloodshed, viewers were spared the most gruesome details of what those rushing to help must have experienced. I do want those who are responsible for such a reprehensible evil action to be brought to justice and never again have the opportunity to do such an evil action.

Last Monday evening, we began our Parish Council meeting by praying the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary. Who could know such pain and suffering but Jesus who carried his cross to crucifixion. On Tuesday, I offered up the 6:00 p.m. Mass for the intention of the victims and their families. My heart goes out to the Richard family and to all the other families who suffered injuries. Of the three people killed, the youngest was Martin Richard, 8. His mother suffered a severe head injury, and his little 6 year old sister, a very serious leg injury. I have etched in my mind the photo which has been shown on TV and the Internet of Martin holding a poster which says, "No more hurting people—PEACE."

I think of the tribute the Chicago Tribune sports page gave to not only the Boston sports teams but also the people of Boston. The front page of Tuesday's Sport Section had printed in bold: *We are Chicago Red Sox, ...Chicago Celtics, ...Chicago Bruins, ...Chicago Patriots, ...Chicago Revolution.* In other words, we are one with you, Boston, in your pain, suffering, and in your resolve to move forward.

Reading Mary Schumich's column in Tuesday's Tribune also has resonated with me as a runner. She said that her runner friend, Julie, said that: *The finish line is a symbol. It's like they bombed a really sacred place.* Schumich goes on to write that the finish line *represents joy after*

*suffering. Accomplishment after pain. A payoff for effort and endurance. Proof of Life's possibilities. ... A finish line is where ordinary people summon strength they couldn't have been sure they had. One more time, that's what we're all called upon to do.*

President Obama, in his address at the interfaith prayer service in Boston this past Thursday, paid tribute to the Boston victims. He ended his address saying: *Tomorrow, the sun will rise over Boston. Tomorrow, the sun will rise over this country that we love. This special place. This state of grace. Scripture tells us to "run with endurance the race that is set before us." As we do, may God hold close those who've been taken from us too soon. May He comfort their families. And may He continue to watch over these United States of America.*

Our Cardinal George, offering his sympathies to Cardinal O'Malley of Boston, writes: *As you well know, at times like this, when even our most profound expressions of condolence fall short, the only words that can genuinely bring healing are those we lift up to the Lord in prayer. I want to assure you that I and the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago will be praying for all those who died and were injured in this tragedy, along with their families, friends and neighbors.*

Let us all lift up our prayers to the Lord for the victims of the bombing and for the people of Boston.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Dennis Ziomek". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Fr. Dennis Ziomek  
Pastor