

The Most Reverend Richard Henning  
Archbishop of Boston  
Archdiocese of Boston  
66 Brooks Drive  
Braintree, MA 02184

December 13, 2024

Your Excellency:

The members of Pax Christi, Massachusetts congratulate you on your appointment to Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Boston, and we welcome you.

As fellow Catholics who believe in the sanctity of life, we are appalled by the ongoing slaughter of civilians in Gaza and Lebanon. The carnage continues with no end in sight.

We beseech you to condemn the excessive death and suffering inflicted on our brothers and sisters in the holy land by:

- joining Pope Francis in calling publicly for an immediate ceasefire;
- directing priests within the archdiocese to do the same in their weekly sermons;
- instructing parishes to include a call for a ceasefire in the Middle East in the prayers of the faithful.

Besides repeatedly calling for a ceasefire, Pope Francis has stated, “Israel’s attacks in Gaza and Lebanon are immoral and disproportionate,” adding that the Israeli army had exceeded the rules of war. In his recently published book, the Pontiff endorsed a genocide investigation in Gaza, and in late November he lamented the failures of humanity today “where suffering is great, and the arrogance of the occupier undermines dialogue.”

As we await the birth of the Prince of Peace during this season of advent, we invite you to join both Pope Francis and Pax Christi by standing in solidarity with innocent victims. Your voice is urgently needed to condemn needless violence and promote coexistence.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

*Pax Christi, Massachusetts*

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