

April 17, 2007

Beloved in Christ:

Christ is Risen!

It is with deep pain that I watched the tragic events unfold on one of our college campuses. This could have been any campus and any one of our many college students. As such, I have no doubt that our own college children and parents were affected by yesterday's events even more than the rest of us. What should be places of tranquility and peace have too often become places of tragedy. Places where parents should be able to send their teens to become educated adults and where children go to expand their minds and gain knowledge that will enable them to be productive members of society must be safe and free of evil and destruction of all kinds. The hopelessness of the man who perpetrated these senseless killings can only reinforce the need of our clergy and lay leaders to instill in our faithful, and especially in our youth, the need for strong, traditional families as well as values that are rooted in Christ and the Church.

On behalf of my brother bishops and all the clergy and faithful of our Archdiocese, we express our deepest sympathy to the families of those who were murdered or injured yesterday. In addition, we pray that our risen Lord Jesus Christ, who destroyed death, will grant the families and the entire country the peace and hope that only the empty tomb can provide.

In the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Metropolitan Philip". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+Metropolitan PHILIP  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America