

**REMARKS
BY ADAM CARDINAL MAIDA
MOSQUE
DECEMBER 14, 2001**

Imam Qazwine and Members of the Islamic Center of America:

I thank you for the gracious invitation to share these sacred hours of Ramadan with you and your congregation. I especially pleased to be with you on this Friday, December 14, as the Catholic Church throughout the world unites itself in solidarity with Muslim believers everywhere in special prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for world peace and for the healing of all who suffer the effects of war and terrorism.

Pope John Paul II has challenged Catholics everywhere *“to pray with fervor to God so that He will grant the world a stable peace, based on justice, and make in possible to find adequate solutions to the many conflicts that trouble the world.”* In union with the Catholics of metro Detroit and Catholics everywhere, I offer you the pledge of our prayers, the witness of our fasting, and a commitment to

make a financial contribution to the relief efforts for the people of Afghanistan.

The events of September 11 remind us that not only have technology and economy become global, but insecurities, fears, violence, injustice, and war have also become global! As the Pope has explained, what we need now is a response of what he calls “globalized charity.”

Here in metro Detroit, I am pleased to say that over the last several decades, our Catholic and Muslim communities have been in frequent dialogue and have worked together on various projects. In particular, I thank the Muslim community for your partnership with us in promoting the dignity of human life from the first moment of conception until last natural breath.

In the name of all the Catholics of metro Detroit, I offer my apologies and sympathy for any way in which members of our Church have ever offended you by remarks or attitudes of prejudice, anger, or violence. In the last several months, again and again my brother

clergy and myself have challenged our congregations to examine our minds and hearts, rooting out any seeds of mistrust, anger, harsh words, or judgments that might prevent us from working together for peace and justice.

As the Holy Father says in his special January 1 message, *‘No religious leader can condone terrorism, and much less preach it. It is a profanation of religion to declare oneself a terrorist in the name of God, to do violence to others in His name. Terrorist violence is a contradiction of faith in God, the Creator of man, who cares for man and loves him. It is altogether contrary to faith in Christ the Lord, who taught His disciples to pray: ‘Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors (Mt. 6:12).’*

We ask your forgiveness for our human weakness and failings, in turn, we pledge our own openness to forgive any times or ways we ourselves may have experienced misunderstanding.

We look forward to the special gathering our Holy Father has called in Assisi on January 24, 2002, and hope that we will be able to

do something here in Detroit at the same time that religious leaders from around the world gather for inter-religious dialogue and prayer. This, indeed, is also our hope and prayer for the New Year of 2002, as reflected in the message of Pope John Paul II for the 34th World Day of Prayer for Peace entitled, *‘No Peace Without Justice. No Justice Without Forgiveness.’*

Let us lift our minds and hearts to God as we pray for all those who have died because of terrorism; may the Lord grant healing and peace to their families. We pray for all who suffer the effects of war here, in Afghanistan, throughout the Middle East, and indeed, all around the world. We ask that the Lord rekindle within us hope for a new beginning as one human family. May we together receive and share God’s forgiveness and mercy. To the merciful and almighty, the creator of heaven and earth, we submit ourselves in all humility and gratitude. Amen.