

Detroit's Archbishop Reacts to Events in Central Asia
Calls Leaders to "Moral Consistency" in Ongoing Actions

Participating in a clergy conference in Northern Michigan, Detroit's archbishop, Cardinal Adam Maida, issued this statement to the priests and people of the Archdiocese of Detroit:

"Provoked by acts of mass terrorism and by the threat of more indiscriminate attacks, a military necessity now presents itself to the people of the Free World. We pray that our leaders continue to be guided by moral consistency in their decisions and actions. And we entrust the safety and solidarity of our brothers and sisters in the armed services to the hands of the Lord.

"As events unfold, it is timely to recall our Catholic teaching regarding the conduct of armed conflict. The standards include such things as noncombatant immunity, proportionality, and what the teaching calls 'right intention,' which means that even in the midst of conflict, the aim of political and military leaders must be peace with justice. Acts of vengeance and indiscriminate violence are forbidden in our 'Just War' teachings.

"These are times that call for dialogue and support between and among believers in God. As the Holy Father has told us, we know that evil and death do not have the final say. The path to peace begins in our own hearts."

— statement from Cardinal Adam Maida
Archbishop of Detroit
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