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October 2009

My dear friends in the Muslim community,

Allow me this opportunity to express my sincere hope that the celebration of Id al-Fitr, as observed last month, was a joyous time for you. In the midst of life's daily challenges, it is indeed important to take time to give thanks to God and to enjoy the company of family and friends.

With this letter I am pleased to enclose Holy See's annual message to Muslims as was issued for the end of Ramadan. I would be pleased if you are able to share my greetings and the message from the Holy See with the members of your congregation.

The theme of this year's message, "Christians and Muslims: Together in overcoming poverty", is timely and fitting. I well recall that when our local interreligious leadership group met last spring, we spoke of our shared desire to alleviate the hardships experienced by the poor. In the words of the Holy See's text, "As believers, the desire to work together for a just and durable solution to the scourge of poverty certainly also implies reflecting on the grave problems of our time and, when possible, sharing a common commitment to eradicate them." This is a goal that is worthy of our working together, for the betterment of our society.

Rev. David Michael, who so capably and diligently serves the Archdiocese and our colleagues in the interfaith community, has informed me that the first session of this year's Christian-Muslim dialogue will focus on the theme of the commandments of love for God and love for neighbor. May God bless our ongoing efforts to build relationships through dialogue and collaboration, so that we may be witnesses of God's love for all people.

With the assurance of my prayers, I am,

+ Sean O'Meara

Archbishop of Boston