April 16, 2013

Dear colleagues,

While I was raised in Boston, Cleveland is my home. Today, however, we are all Bostonians.

The horrific massacre at the finish of the Marathon on Boylston Street has been an attack on each of us, no matter where we live. In the minutes after the bombs exploded, I was relieved to reach my older sister, who lives only a few blocks from there and had chosen this year to cheer on runners as they were entering the Back Bay rather than at the finish, and to find that she and my immediate siblings, nieces, and nephews were all safe. But those killed and injured and traumatized in Boston are equally my sisters and brothers today, and your sisters and brothers today, and I join with you in cradling them in our prayers.

This world is not safe, and that is nothing new. The power of evil continually finds ways to attack the security of trusting communities and instill fear in the souls of all who seek to celebrate and give life. But the power of God, working through us, is greater than all evil, and will overcome it.

Together we will get back on our feet and run again toward the promise of a safe and trusting world, led on by hope and supported by the relentless companionship of a loving Christ. And today that race resumes with prayer for our sisters and brothers in Boston and around the world who have been mortally, physically, and emotionally wounded by this horror.

Pray for those who have been killed, those who have lost limbs, those who have been traumatically injured, those who have lost loved ones, those who responded in valor, and those who are responsible. Pray for the peace of God and the healing power of Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

Bishop of Ohio