



**Most Reverend Raymond J. Boland**  
**Bishop Emeritus**  
**Diocese Kansas City ~ St. Joseph**

**The Terrorist Attacks on the United States**  
**Bishop Boland Calls Community To Prayer**  
September 11, 2001

**(Kansas City, Missouri ~ September 11, 2001)** -- In noontime prayers today at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Bishop Raymond J. Boland of the Diocese of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph reflected on the horrific events of September 11, 2001. Bishop Boland said, "The common bond of our humanity draws us together." Expressing deep concern for the victims of today's tragedies, Bishop Boland stated, "Our hearts go out to all those who have died, and to all the innocent people around the country whose lives have been seared forever."

Bishop Boland requested Catholic parishes throughout the diocese to gather tonight, September 11, for Masses and prayers for the lives lost under tragic circumstances, for the leadership of our country and for peace. "Tomorrow, all of our churches will be open from dawn to dusk so that we can beg the Prince of Peace not to let us stumble in the dark," remarked Bishop Boland.

Accordingly, all parishes in the diocese will be open tomorrow, September 12, to provide a place for people – Catholic and of other faith backgrounds – to come together for prayer or silent reflection.

**Mass offered for the victims of the  
World Trade Center and Pentagon Terrorist Attacks**  
Tuesday, September 11, 2001  
Our Lady of Sorrows Church  
Kansas City, Missouri

**Readings:**  
Genesis 4:3-10  
Ephesians 4:30, 5:2  
Matthew 5:20-24

**Introduction**

This is a terrible day for the United States. It is a terrible day for all humanity. We come here to pray for so many people who will not see another dawn.

In our First reading (Genesis) Cain becomes the personification of evil. Without warning, indeed when least expected, Cain murders his brother, Able.

Cain has struck again this day. This is a day of evil. God responded to Cain's monstrous deed

by asking, "What have you done?"

We ask the same question. It remains unanswered because we are too numbed to think. Many of us remember Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 and it was evil, but the memory of September 11, 2001 will live with us forever. What happened a few hours ago can only be described as a crime against humanity, an attack against all civilized dignity. It is a challenge to our national integrity, a test for the soul of America.

But God reminds us, "We are our brother's, keeper." We must try to understand the perverted people who would plan and execute such a barbaric deed.

Our hearts go out in prayer, in sympathy and in genuine concern to all those on the planes which were hijacked, to all those innocent people whose blood was spilled in New York, in Washington and in Pennsylvania. We remember the thousands who must have died and their relatives around the country whose lives have been seared forever.

We must pray for our President and his associates on whose shoulders the responsibility of leadership rests during these terrible hours. We hope and pray for cool heads, a reasoned response and a muted revenge.

I cannot do any better than to ask you to recall the words of St. Paul in our second reading. We must get rid "of all bitterness, all passion and anger, harsh words and malice."

This tragedy should spur us to put aside all our own pettiness which, in perspective, is so insignificant.

As Paul advises us we must "be kind to one another, compassionate and mutually forgiving". If we can do this, then we may be able to create a groundswell of goodness to overcome the evil of this day. This Mass is a prayer that we may experience reconciliation. I wear green vestments because they are a symbol of hope.

May I suggest that you go home to those you love. Go home and hug your children or, if they are away from home, give them a call. And let us together beg God for understanding, for patience and for love.

AMEN