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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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October 28, 2015

Dear Mr. Barletta,

As the personal and official representative of His Holiness Pope Francis in the United States of America, I acknowledge, on the Holy Father's behalf, receipt of the beautiful "A Prayer for Peace" by Salvatore DeFazio. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Indeed, Pope Francis touched the hearts of tens of thousands of people, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, in Washington, New York, Philadelphia and beyond. As he said at the Welcoming Ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House: **"I look forward to these days of encounter and dialogue, in which I hope to listen to, and share, many of the hopes and dreams of the American people."**

While the limitations of his official schedule prevented him from accommodating all of the wonderful requests that reached this Office, you may be sure that he felt the warmth of the good people of this vast country. At Philadelphia International Airport, just before his departure to Rome, His Holiness reflected: **"My days with you have been brief. But they have been days of great grace for me, and, I pray, for you too. Please know that as I prepare to leave, I do so with a heart full of gratitude and hope...May our days together bear fruit that will last, generosity and care for others that will endure! Just as we have received so much from God – gifts freely given us, and not of our own making – so let us freely give to others in return."**

With renewed gratitude, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò  
Apostolic Nuncio

The Honorable Lou Barletta  
United States House of Representatives  
115 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515