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October 6, 2008

My dear friends in the Jewish community,

As you begin a new year allow me this opportunity to wish you "L'shanah tovah!" and to assure you and all your brethren that you have been in my thoughts and prayers during the recent holy days.

Please know that I continue to be most grateful for the warm relationship between the Archdiocese of Boston and the local Jewish community. We are blessed to have enjoyed this closeness and mutual respect and I confidently look forward to it growing even stronger in the years ahead. As the Archdiocese observes its bicentennial we recall the initiatives undertaken by Cardinal Cushing and all the good that has been accomplished since then. Continuing to join our efforts, we can truly make meaningful contributions to the betterment of society and the world at large.

In recent years our interreligious leaders meetings have provided a valuable forum for exchanging ideas. At the most recent meeting, which I was not able to attend, the Most Rev. Robert Hennessey, Auxiliary Bishop for the Central Region of the Archdiocese, participated as my representative and conveyed my personal assurance that I am committed to such gatherings. It is important that we take the time to come together so as to better understand each other's circumstances.

A particular concern that we all share is the plight of the needy. The unprecedented financial events of recent weeks raise serious concerns about the prospects for the disadvantaged and those who have been "just making ends meet" and may now, through no fault of their own, fall behind in their efforts to provide the basic necessities of shelter, food and heat. In the spirit of "tikkun olam," I would welcome our exploring ways we can alleviate the burden of the poor and assist those who find themselves on the margins of sustainability. Working together on behalf of the less fortunate, in collaboration with our Muslim brothers and sisters and all people of good faith, we can sanctify the name of God in our world.

With sincere wishes for a prosperous new year, I am

Sincerely,

Archbishop of Boston