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**ARCHBISHOP NELSON J. PÉREZ SENDS LETTER  
TO THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY ON THE OCCASION OF RAMADAN**

Dear Friends,

Greetings to all of my sisters and brothers of the Muslim faith tradition as you begin the celebration of Ramadan! I wish to offer a greeting of peace as you embark on your month long vigil of fasting, prayer, and works of mercy.

In 1985, Pope John Paul II visited Belgium and addressed Muslim leaders. There he said, “As Christians and Muslims, we encounter one another in faith in the one God, our Creator and guide, our just and merciful judge. We believe that God transcends our thoughts and our universe and that his loving presence accompanies us throughout each day.”

I echo those sentiments with deep respect and friendship and offer you my prayerful best wishes as you mark this holy time on your calendar.

Given ongoing physical, social, and financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic along with racial tensions and civil unrest, our friendship bears great fruit during a time of anxiety. Together as a united human family, we are people whose hearts are grounded in faith and hope.

May your lives bring joy to all those around you.

*+Nelson J. Pérez*  
*Archbishop of Philadelphia*