

**Address of the Rector of Charles University
Requiem Mass for the Victims of Evil
St. Vitus, Wenceslas, and Adalbert Cathedral in Prague
December 23, 2023**

Dear Mr. President, dear bereaved people, dear students, colleagues, dear Father Archbishop,

on behalf of the entire academic community, all staff, and students, and personally, I express sincere condolences to all those grieving the death of a loved one. When someone loses their life so senselessly, it takes a very long time before we can even accept this tragic news. Whether it is our loved one, a classmate, colleague, or friend. Sometimes even a lifetime is not enough to understand the loss.

Each person's life, in its uniqueness, is an enrichment and becomes part of the lives of the rest of us. Therefore, their loss is irreplaceable. A young person's life is an unfulfilled opportunity to do much good for others, and that is why this violent ending affects us all even more deeply. When it involves individuals, we have met in the common corridors and lecture halls of our university, their death touches us even more profoundly.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has sent words of support during these difficult days, whether they are from the Czech Republic or abroad, and especially to everyone who is actively helping. To all the volunteers, wherever they are - at the university, in front of Carolinum; to those providing psychological intervention, all emergency services, healthcare professionals currently caring for the injured in hospitals; to those sending donations, and to all those coordinating this comprehensive effort to help in these days. A special thank you goes to the leadership of the Faculty of Arts at Charles University, whose dedication on-site saved many more lives.

Let's continue to help and support each other, and to be kind and considerate. In these difficult moments, no one should feel alone.

Thank you.

prof. MUDr. Milena Králíčková, Ph.D.