



**American
Red Cross**

National Headquarters

430 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Bonnie McElveen-Hunter
Chairman

August 12, 2008

Massimo Barra
President, Italian Red Cross
Via Toscana, 12
00187 Roma, Italy

My dearest Massimo,

You are absolutely correct "Where is my French?", but I must confess my first language of choice would be Italian!

The language that we speak in the Red Cross family is, thank goodness, universal. It is the language not only of the heart, but of courage, commitment, and action. No one better exemplifies that language and mission than you, my dear Massimo.

Your work on the streets among the least, the last and the lost will always be remembered. I know, my dear sir, that you answer to a *Higher Court*. I am honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with you and to share with you the mission of the Red Cross family.

I look forward to our paths crossing often in the future so that I might again personally thank you for your leadership, hard work and unyielding commitment to the noble and necessary mission of the International Red Cross family. Until we meet again, my dear Massimo, I send you my warmest personal regards.

With admiration,

Bonnie McElveen-Hunter

Together, we can save a life