



ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE FILADELFIA

AVANZANDO EN LA FE

Renovando nuestro compromiso de asistencia a las víctimas, la protección del niño y la integridad del sacerdocio.

Boletín No. 3

Mayo del 2011

Introducción

Ésta es la tercera de una serie de inserciones periódicas de boletín elaborada por la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia para proporcionar información a los feligreses. Cada inserción de anuncios se centrará en los pasos de acción que la Arquidiócesis ha tomado para ayudar a las víctimas, promover la protección de los niños, y asegurar la integridad del sacerdocio.

Los esfuerzos de asistencia a víctimas en la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia anterior al Informe del Gran Jurado en el 2005

- La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE.UU aprobó los *Estatutos para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes* (<http://bit.ly/USCCBCharter>) en junio del 2002. Este documento requirió que todas las (Arq)diócesis proporcionaran los siguientes componentes de asistencia a las víctimas de abuso sexual:
 - *Artículo 1:* Las diócesis deben prestar ayuda a las víctimas / sobrevivientes y sus familias y demostrar su sincero compromiso con el bienestar espiritual y emocional de éstas. El obispo diocesano o su representante debe ofrecer reunirse con las víctimas y sus familias.
 - *Articulo 2:* Las diócesis deben tener reglamentos y procedimientos establecidos para responder rápidamente a cualquier imputación en la que haya razón para creer que ha habido abuso sexual de un menor. Las diócesis deben contar con una persona o personas competentes para coordinar la ayuda para las personas que den parte de haber sufrido, siendo menores, abuso sexual cometido por clérigos u otro personal eclesial.
 - Las diócesis no deben alcanzar acuerdos que obliguen a las partes a mantener confidencialidad, a menos que la víctima/el sobreviviente la pida y que ese pedido esté indicado en el texto del acuerdo.
- Como parte de su respuesta inicial en 2002, la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia identificó a varios empleados de los Servicios Sociales Católicos disponibles para proporcionar asistencia a las víctimas.
- En aquel momento, la Arquidiócesis también cambió el proceso de presentación de acusaciones de abuso sexual quitando esa responsabilidad de la Oficina del Secretario del Clero. Este cambio eliminó la necesidad de las víctimas de hacer un informe a un miembro del clero.
- La responsabilidad de recibir informes de víctimas y otras partes fue confiada al personal de asistencia a las víctimas.
- La Arquidiócesis estableció una página de «estado clerical» en el sitio web de la Arquidiócesis (<http://bit.ly/AOPClergystatus>) con el fin de proporcionar información pública detallada sobre el clero con denuncias fundadas de abuso sexual en contra de ellos.

La expansión de los esfuerzos de asistencia a víctimas en la Arquidiócesis después del Informe del Gran Jurado 2005

- Trabajando durante diciembre del 2008, la señora Achilles asistió al cardenal Rigali con una amplia expansión del Programa de Asistencia a la Víctimas de la Arquidiócesis. Las acciones tomadas entonces incluyeron:
 - La creación de la Oficina para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes en junio del 2006 para combinar los esfuerzos de formación de ambiente seguro, que habían estado en vigor desde el 2003, para todo el clero, empleados y voluntarios con los servicios de asistencia a las víctimas.
 - La creación de una línea telefónica gratuita (1-888-800-8780) dedicada a las víctimas de abuso sexual por el clero y demás personal de la Iglesia en necesidad de asistencia.
 - La simplificación del proceso de proporcionar apoyo financiero para los gastos de asesoramiento. La Arquidiócesis utilizó un marco para los servicios establecidos por *Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Crime Victim's Compensation Program* (programa de compensación para las víctimas de crímenes de la comisión de Pensilvania sobre la delincuencia).

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- La provisión de servicios a las víctimas de la manera más accesible posible, incluyendo servicios de consejería mejorados, reembolso de viajes, gastos de cuidado de los niños, y un proceso simplificado para la verificación de los servicios prestados.
- La distribución de comunicados de prensa a todos los medios de comunicación locales, la publicación del mismo en el sitio web arquidiocesano, y anuncios en las parroquias cuando un sacerdote, un diácono, un empleado, o un voluntario era removido.
- El lanzamiento de una campaña de alcance a las víctimas de abuso sexual por el clero a través de los medios escritos, audio, y electrónicos.
- La distribución de cartas a los ex alumnos de las escuelas secundarias, donde las acusaciones justificadas de abuso ocurrieron con el fin de informar, ofrecer apoyo, y alentar a todas las víctimas a presentarse.
- En septiembre del 2006, el cardenal Rigali pidió que todos los sacerdotes de la Arquidiócesis asistieran a *Witness to the Sorrow* (Testigo del dolor). Tres adultos sobrevivientes de abuso sexual del clero hablaron de sus experiencias frente al cuerpo de los sacerdotes arquidiocesanos en el Seminario San Carlos Borromeo. El evento fue transmitido en vivo por la página web de la Arquidiócesis, para permitir que tantas víctimas como fuera posible pudieran verlo. El video está archivado en (<http://bit.ly/AOPWitnessoSorrow>).

Otras mejoras de asistencia a las víctimas

Esfuerzos en la Arquidiócesis tras el Informe del Gran Jurado 2011

- Poco después de la publicación del Informe del Gran Jurado en febrero del 2011, el cardenal Rigali trató de nuevo a la señora Mary Achilles como Asesora de Servicios a las Víctimas.con
- Siguiendo la recomendación de la señora Achilles, el Programa de Asistencia a las Víctimas eliminó el documento *Prohibition to Report* (prohibido informar). Su propósito era pedir a una víctima (ahora un adulto) proporcionar documentación firmada que daba instrucciones a la Arquidiócesis de no hacer un reporte de abuso a la policía.
- El Programa de Asistencia a las Víctimas ha desarrollado nuevas políticas y procedimientos utilizando como guía *Consolidated Victim Services Programs Standards of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency* (guías del programa de servicios consolidados a víctimas de la comisión de Pensilvania en crimen y delincuencia). Estas políticas se han escrito para poner en práctica métodos de probada eficacia, que incluyen:
 - la reestructuración de las guías para recopilar información de las víctimas y
 - la nueva formulación de documentar informes de acusaciones.
- El 16 de febrero del 2011, la creación de la posición de Delegado para las Investigaciones separó el proceso de investigar las denuncias de abuso sexual del Programa de Asistencia a las Víctimas.
- Como resultado de este cambio de procedimiento, los Coordinadores de Asistencia a Víctimas ahora son capaces de centrarse principalmente en proporcionar apoyo a corto y largo plazo a las víctimas.
- La Arquidiócesis está explorando activamente oportunidades para mejorar aún más los servicios para las víctimas que serían independientes de la administración de la Iglesia.
- La Arquidiócesis ha contratado *Network of Victim Assistance* (red de asistencia a víctimas), del Condado Bucks en Pensilvania para proporcionar capacitación en el área de notificación obligatoria para unos 22.000 miembros del clero, empleados y voluntarios. Esta iniciativa va más allá de los requisitos actuales para las instituciones conforme a la ley de Pensilvania y se suma a la formación de Ambiente Seguro previamente proporcionada a través de VIRTUS.

Sí usted es un adulto sobreviviente de abuso sexual de menores y necesita asistencia, favor de contactar al Victim Assistance Program (Programa de Asistencia para Víctimas) al 1-888-800-8780 o philavac@adphila.org.



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH:

Renewing Our Commitment to Victim Assistance, Child Protection, and Priestly Integrity

Bulletin No. 1

April 2011

Introduction:

This is the first in a series of periodic bulletin inserts developed by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to provide information to parishioners. Each bulletin insert will focus on action steps the Archdiocese has taken to assist victims, advance the protection of children, and ensure the integrity of the Priesthood.

Information About Priests Placed on Administrative Leave:

- Cardinal Rigali has placed a number of priests on administrative leave over the last several weeks following the recommendations of Mrs. Gina Maisto Smith, a former Child Abuse prosecutor hired to assist the Archdiocese in responding to the Grand Jury Report. These administrative leaves are interim measures pending a fuller investigation of each case. They are neither judgments nor final determinations.
- In order to reach her recommendations, Mrs. Smith conducted an initial administrative review of files through the lens of the current Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Act, the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's responsibility to protect children.
- The complaints in these cases range from potential boundary issues as outlined in the *Archdiocesan Standards of Ministerial Behavior* (<http://bit.ly/AOPministerialstandards>) to allegations of sexual abuse. As such, it would be unfair to paint all priests currently on administrative leave with the same broad brush.
- While on administrative leave priests do not reside in a parish nor participate in any parish or school activities and they may not exercise their priestly ministry publicly (say Mass or administer the Sacraments). They may wear clerical attire.
- Out of respect for those most affected by this situation, the Archdiocese cannot discuss the details of these cases. As an active investigation is moving forward, it would be inappropriate and unfair to those parties to share further information as no judgment or determination has been reached.
- The administrative review process has moved into the fuller investigation phase which includes, among many components, an examination of each case by a multi-disciplinary team.
- Members of the multi-disciplinary team possess a variety of competencies which add to the thoroughness of the administrative review. Members include a forensic psychiatrist with expertise in the assessment of victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse, a psychologist with expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of sex offenders, a pediatrician with expertise in child sexual abuse, and two veteran sex crimes investigators.
- Although we cannot predict the timing with certainty, we are hopeful that the administrative review will be complete within 6 to 9 months. What is most important is that each case receives the attention it deserves.
- As the review of each case is completed, and if it is determined that a priest will return to active ministry, a decision regarding his assignment will be made at that time.

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Information About Those Indicted:

- Consistent with its policies, the Archdiocese itself reported to law enforcement the allegations of sexual abuse that led to the Grand Jury investigation.
- These indictments are related to the investigation of sexual abuse allegations that are alleged to have occurred in the late 1990s.
- It is not the purview of the Church to publicly discuss the workings of the criminal justice system or make comments regarding ongoing criminal prosecution.
- The Archdiocese is not paying legal fees for defendants charged with sexual assault of a minor.
- The Archdiocese is paying for legal counsel for Monsignor William Lynn as the charges against him relate to the position he held. Those legal fees are being paid from unrestricted funds in reserve for use at the discretion of the Archbishop. These funds come to the Archdiocese through unrestricted bequests or the sale of Archdiocesan property and *not* from parish collections, the Catholic Charities Appeal, nor from the *Heritage of Faith—Vision of Hope* Capital Campaign.

Information About The Delegate for Investigations:

- The Delegate for Investigations is a new position created by Cardinal Rigali on February 16, 2011. The Cardinal has appointed to this position Mr. Al Toczydlowski, a former Deputy District Attorney with over 30 years of experience in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office.
- With Mr. Toczydlowski's appointment, all investigations are now separate and distinct from the Victim Assistance Office.
- The Delegate for Investigations is now the point of contact for all complaints of misconduct—ranging from potential boundary issues to allegations of sexual abuse. He is responsible for reporting all such complaints and allegations to law enforcement and other appropriate authorities.
- The Delegate will oversee and facilitate all aspects of Archdiocesan investigations from receipt of a complaint through examination by the Archdiocesan Review Board to the presentation of a recommendation to the Archbishop.

For continuing updates and additional background information visit
www.archphila.org



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Boletín No. 1

Abril 2011

Información acerca de sacerdotes colocados en ausencia administrativa:

- El cardenal Rigali ha puesto a varios sacerdotes en ausencia administrativa en las pasadas semanas siguiendo las recomendaciones de la señora Gina Maisto Smith, antiguo acusador de Abuso de Niños, contratada para asistir a la Arquidiócesis para responder al Informe del Gran Jurado. Estas ausencias administrativas son medidas provisionales en espera de una investigación más completa de cada caso. No son ni resoluciones judiciales ni definitivas.
- Con el fin de llegar a sus recomendaciones, la señora Smith llevó a cabo una revisión inicial de los archivos administrativos a través del lente de la actual *Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Act* (ley de Servicios de Pensilvania para la Protección del Niño), *Pennsylvania Crimes Code* (Código Penal de Pensilvania), los estatutos para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, y la responsabilidad de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia de proteger a los niños.
- Las quejas en estos casos varían de casos de problemas potenciales de límites, como se indica en los arquidiocesanos Estándares de Comportamiento Ministerial y sus Límites (<http://bit.ly/AOPministerialstandards>), a acusaciones de abuso sexual. Por lo tanto, sería injusto pintar todos los sacerdotes actualmente en ausencia administrativa con la misma brocha gorda.
- Mientras los sacerdotes permanecen en ausencia administrativa ellos no residen en una parroquia, ni participan en actividades de la parroquia o en la escuela y no pueden ejercer su ministerio sacerdotal públicamente (decir misa o administrar los sacramentos). Ellos pueden usar el traje clerical.
- Por respeto a los más afectados por esta situación, la Arquidiócesis no puede hablar de los detalles de estos casos. En una investigación que está teniendo lugar, sería inapropiado e injusto a las partes compartir más información ya que ningún juicio o pronunciamiento ha sido alcanzado.
- El proceso de revisión administrativo ha pasado a la fase de investigación más completa que incluye, entre muchos componentes, un examen de cada caso por un equipo multidisciplinario.
- Los miembros del equipo multidisciplinario poseen una variedad de competencias que se suman a la minuciosidad de la revisión administrativa. Los miembros incluyen a un psiquiatra forense con experiencia en la evaluación de las víctimas y los perpetradores de abuso sexual, un psicólogo con experiencia en el diagnóstico y el tratamiento de delincuentes sexuales, un pediatra con experiencia en abuso sexual infantil, y dos veteranos investigadores de delitos sexuales.
- Aunque no podemos predecir el momento con certeza, estamos esperanzados en que la revisión administrativa se complete entre 6 y 9 meses. Lo más importante es que cada caso reciba la atención que merece.
- Según la revisión de cada caso sea completada, y si es determinado que un sacerdote volverá al ministerio activo una decisión en cuanto a su asignación será tomada entonces.

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Información acerca de los acusados:

- Consistente con sus políticas, la Arquidiócesis misma informó a las autoridades las denuncias de abuso sexual que condujo a la investigación del Gran Jurado.
- Estas acusaciones están relacionadas a la investigación de acusaciones de abuso sexual que presuntamente han ocurrido a finales del 1990.
- No es competencia de la Iglesia hablar públicamente del funcionamiento del sistema de justicia penal o hacer comentarios acerca del enjuiciamiento penal en curso.
- La Arquidiócesis no está pagando los honorarios de abogados de los acusados de asalto a un menor de edad.
- La Archidiócesis paga por la asesoría legal del monseñor William Lynn ya que los gastos contra él están relacionados con la posición él ocupó. Esos honorarios de abogados están siendo pagados de fondos sin restricción, en reserva para el uso a discreción del Arzobispo. Estos fondos vienen a la Arquidiócesis por asignaciones testamentarias sin restricción o de la venta de propiedad arquidiocesana y no de colecciones de parroquia, ni de la colecta *Catholic Charities Appeal*, ni de la campaña capital Herencia de Fe-Visión de Esperanza.

Información acerca del Delegado para las Investigaciones:

- Delegado para las Investigaciones es un nuevo cargo creado por el cardenal Rigali el 16 de febrero del 2011. El cardenal ha nombrado a este cargo al señor Al Toczydlowski, un ex vicefiscal de distrito con más de 30 años de experiencia en la Oficina del Fiscal del Distrito de Filadelfia.
- Con el nombramiento del señor Toczydlowski, todas las investigaciones son ahora separadas y diferentes de la Oficina de Asistencia a la Víctima.
- El Delegado para las Investigaciones es ahora el punto de contacto para todas las denuncias de mala conducta, que varían desde problemas potenciales de límites a acusaciones de abuso sexual. Él es responsable de reportar todas las quejas y denuncias a la policía y otras autoridades apropiadas.
- El Delegado supervisará y facilitará todos los aspectos de las investigaciones arquidiocesanas desde el recibo de una queja por el examen del *Archdiocesan Review Board* (Junta de revisión arquidiocesana) a la presentación de una recomendación al Arzobispo.

Para actualizaciones continuas e información adicional de fondo, visite
www.archphila.org



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH:

Renewing Our Commitment to Victim Assistance, Child Protection, and Priestly Integrity

Bulletin No. 2

May 2011

Introduction:

This is the second in a series of periodic bulletin inserts developed by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to provide information to parishioners. Each bulletin insert will focus on action steps the Archdiocese has taken to assist victims, advance the protection of children, and ensure the integrity of the Priesthood.

Information about the *Standards of Ministerial Behavior and Boundaries*:

- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," approved in June 2002 and revised in June 2005, is intended to create a secure environment for young people throughout the Church in the United States.
- Article 6 of the Charter states, "There are to be clear and well-publicized diocesan/eparchial standards of ministerial behavior and appropriate boundaries for clergy and for any other paid personnel and volunteers of the Church in positions of trust who have regular contact with children and young people."
- Following the Charter, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia adopted its own Standards of Ministerial Behavior and Boundaries on May 5, 2003. (<http://bit.ly/AOPministerialstandards>)
- The Standards provide a clear guideline for acceptable behavior with young people.
- They make us all alert to possible inappropriate behavior by adults and provide direction for reporting concerns.
- The Standards cover: Conduct for Pastoral Counselors, Confidentiality, Conduct with Children, Harassment and Reporting Misconduct.
- Some examples of actions that would be considered violations of the Standards include: using foul language with a child, driving a child home alone after a practice, hugging and kissing a child, meeting with a child at a location other than a church or school alone, engaging in a parish or school sanctioned activity without at least one other adult.
- As part of the Safe Environment Training program mandated by the Archdiocese all priests, deacons, staff and volunteers who come into contact with children must read the Standards of Ministerial Behavior and Boundaries, acknowledge understanding of the contents and sign a pledge to abide by the Standards.
- By observing this code of conduct, adult leaders, whether clergy, coaches, teachers, staff or volunteers, serve as role models for the children they work with and show how adults should relate to young people.
- Any Church personnel or volunteers who violate the Standards may be removed or suspended from their position depending upon the nature of the offense.

Information About an Update to the Standards:

The Information and Communication Technology Addendum

- The Archdiocese realizes Church personnel and volunteers must effectively use digital means of communicating as part of their mission to spread the Good News of the Gospel in their work with young people.
- It also recognizes that part of its commitment to children and young people includes updating current policies to govern interaction in the rapidly changing electronic communication environment.

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- In July 2011, an Addendum (or update) to the *Standards of Ministerial Behavior and Boundaries* will take effect. The Addendum covers Information and Communication Technology.
- The full text of the Addendum can be found at (<http://bit.ly/AOPstandardstechaddendum>).
- It provides guidance regarding appropriate interaction with minors through social networks, text messaging, e-mail, websites, video chatting, videos, photographs, blogs, and micro-blogs.
- It affirms the Archdiocesan directive that *all* communications with minors must be faithful to the teachings and values of the Catholic Church.
- The Technology and Communication Addendum states that the permission of the parent or guardian must be obtained in writing in order for an adult leader to communicate with minors via telephone, cell phone, text messaging, e-mail, social networks, or any other electronic means.
- It also provides clear guidance for acceptable interaction by adults with minors via digital means.
- Adults serving children and young people must always relate to them in ways that respect their physical, psychological, and emotional boundaries. In this regard, there is no difference between in person and digital interaction.
- Some examples of actions that would be considered violations of the addendum include: texting a child regarding a personal matter, allowing children to have access to personal postings on social media networks, setting up a youth ministry related website without permission, posting pictures of children on a youth group related website or related Facebook page without written permission from a parent or guardian.
- In keeping with the general purpose of the Standards, this addendum can alert us all to inappropriate behavior by adults and allows for a greater degree of accountability.
- The Archdiocese will provide online training for this addendum to the *Standards of Ministerial Behavior and Boundaries* for all clergy, lay employees and volunteers who work with young people.
- Any Church personnel and volunteers who violate the Addendum on Technology may be removed or suspended from their position depending upon the nature of the offense.

Implementation and Online Training:

- The Technology and Communication Addendum to the Standards of Ministerial Behavior takes effect July 1, 2011.
- Between May 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011, all clergy, lay employees, and volunteers who are in service to youth are required to complete a 15 minute online training concerning this addendum administered by the Archdiocesan Office for Child and Youth Protection.
- The information in this bulletin is being provided to parishes, schools and Archdiocesan institutions regarding the implementation and online training (www.aoptraining.org), which is mandatory.
- Questions about the *Addendum to the Standards* or the Safe Environment training program may be directed to the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 215-587-2466 or ocyp@adphila.org.

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Boletín No. 2

May 2011

Introducción

Ésta es la segunda de una serie de inserciones periódicas de boletín elaborada por la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia para proporcionar información a los feligreses. Cada inserción de anuncios se centrará en los pasos de acción que la Arquidiócesis ha tomado para ayudar a las víctimas, promover la protección de los niños, y asegurar la integridad del sacerdocio.

Información sobre los Estándares de Comportamiento Ministerial y sus Límites

- Los *Estatutos para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes* de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE.UU., aprobados en junio del 2002 y revisados en junio del 2005, tienen por objeto crear un entorno seguro para los jóvenes en toda la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos.
- El Artículo 6 de los Estatutos estipula : «Debe haber normas diocesanas/eparquiales claras y ampliamente divulgadas sobre la conducta ministerial y sobre los límites apropiados para el clero, para todo el personal remunerado y para los voluntarios de la Iglesia en cargos de confianza, que tengan contacto regular con niños y jóvenes».
- Después de los Estatutos, la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia aprobó sus propios *Estándares de Comportamiento Ministerial y sus Límites* el 5 de mayo del 2003. (<http://bit.ly/AOPministerialstandards>).
- Los *Estándares* proporcionan una guía clara para el comportamiento aceptable con los jóvenes.
- Ellos nos alertan a un posible comportamiento inadecuado por adultos y proporcionan orientación para notificar preocupaciones.
- Los *Estándares* cubren: Conducta de los consejeros pastorales, confidencialidad, conducta con los niños, acoso y denunciando conductas impropias.
- Algunos ejemplos de acciones que se considerarían violaciones de los *Estándares* incluyen usar lenguaje grosero con un niño, conducir a un niño solo a casa después de una práctica, abrazar y besar a un niño, reunirse con un niño solo en un lugar que no sea una iglesia o escuela, participar en una actividad aprobada por la parroquia o la escuela sin al menos otro adulto.
- Como parte del programa de capacitación Ambiente Seguro mandado por la Arquidiócesis *todos* los sacerdotes, diáconos, personal y voluntarios que están en contacto con los niños deben leer los *Estándares de Comportamiento Ministerial y sus Límites*, reconocer la comprensión del contenido y firmar un compromiso de cumplir con los *Estándares*.
- Al observar este código de conducta, los líderes adultos, ya sean religiosos, entrenadores, maestros, personal o voluntarios, sirven como modelos para los niños con los que trabajan y muestran cómo los adultos deben relacionarse con la gente joven.
- Cualquier personal de la Iglesia o voluntarios que violen los *Estándares* puede ser removido o suspendido de su posición dependiendo de la naturaleza de la infracción.

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CONTINUACIÓN:

Boletín No. 2

Información acerca de una actualización de los *Estándares: Adenda a la Información y Tecnología de la Comunicación*

- La Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia, se da cuenta que el personal de la Iglesia y los voluntarios deben usar de manera eficaz los medios digitales de comunicación como parte de su misión de difundir la Buena Nueva del Evangelio en su trabajo con los jóvenes.
- También reconoce que parte de su compromiso con los niños y los jóvenes incluye la actualización de las políticas actuales para regular la interacción en el entorno de comunicación electrónica que cambia rápidamente.
- En julio del 2011, una adenda (o actualización) de los *Estándares de Comportamiento Ministerial y sus Límites* entrará en vigor. La adenda cubre tecnología de información y comunicación
- El texto completo de la adenda se puede encontrar en (<http://bit.ly/AOPstandardstechaddendum>).
- Proporciona una guía sobre la interacción adecuada con los menores a través de redes sociales, mensajería de texto, correo electrónico, páginas web, video chat, videos, fotografías, blogs y microblogs.
- Afirma la directriz de la Arquidiócesis, que *todas* las comunicaciones con los menores deben ser fieles a las enseñanzas y los valores de la Iglesia católica.
- La *Adenda a la Información y a la Tecnología de la Comunicación* establece que el permiso del padre o tutor debe ser obtenido por escrito para que un líder adulto se pueda comunicar con los menores a través del teléfono, teléfono celular, mensajes de texto, correo electrónico, redes sociales, o cualquier otra electrónica.
- También proporciona una orientación clara para la interacción aceptable por parte de adultos con menores de edad a través de medios digitales.
- Los adultos que sirven a niños y a jóvenes deben relacionarse siempre con ellos de maneras que respeten sus límites físicos, psicológicos, y emocionales. En este sentido, no hay diferencia entre la interacción en persona o digital.
- Algunos ejemplos de acciones que se considerarían violaciones de la adenda son: enviar mensajes de texto a un niño en relación con un asunto personal, permitir que los niños tengan acceso a los anuncios personales en redes de medios sociales, crear un sitio web relacionado con el ministerio de jóvenes sin permiso, publicar fotos de los niños en un sitio web o en la página de Facebook relacionado con el grupo de jóvenes sin el permiso escrito de un parent o tutor.
- De acuerdo con el propósito general de los *Estándares*, la presente adenda puede alertarnos a un comportamiento inadecuado por parte de adultos y permite un mayor grado de responsabilidad.
- La Arquidiócesis proporcionará el entrenamiento en línea para esta adición a los *Estándares de Comportamiento Ministerial y sus Límites* para todo el clero, los empleados laicos y los voluntarios que trabajan con los jóvenes.
- Cualquier personal y voluntario de la Iglesia que viole la Adenda a la Tecnología puede ser removido o suspendido de su posición dependiendo de la naturaleza de la ofensa.

Implementación y entrenamiento en línea

- La *Adenda a la Información y a la Tecnología de la Comunicación a los Estándares de Comportamiento Ministerial y sus Límites* se hace efectiva el 1 de julio del 2011.
- Se requiere a todo el clero, empleados laicos, y voluntarios que están en servicio a la juventud, que completen un entrenamiento en línea de 15 minutos, entre el 1 de mayo del 2011 y el 30 de junio del 2011, administrado por la arquidiocesana Oficina para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes.
- La información en este boletín con respecto a la implementación y al entrenamiento en línea (www.aoptraining.org), que es obligatoria, se está proporcionando a las parroquias, a las escuelas y a las instituciones arquidiocesanas.
- Las preguntas sobre la *Adenda a los Estándares* o el entrenamiento al Ambiente Seguro pueden ser dirigidas a la Oficina para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes en 215-587-2466 u ocyp@adphila.org.

Implementación y entrenamiento en línea

- La *Adenda a la Información y a la Tecnología de la Comunicación a los Estándares de Comportamiento Ministerial y sus Límites* se hace efectiva el 1 de julio del 2011.
- Se requiere a todo el clero, empleados laicos, y voluntarios que están en servicio a la juventud, que completen un entrenamiento en línea de 15 minutos, entre el 1 de mayo del 2011 y el 30 de junio del 2011, administrado por la arquidiocesana Oficina para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes.
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ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH:

Renewing Our Commitment to Victim Assistance, Child Protection, and Priestly Integrity

Bulletin No. 3

May 2011

Introduction

This is the third in a series of periodic bulletin inserts developed by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to provide information to parishioners. Each bulletin insert will focus on action steps the Archdiocese has taken to assist victims, advance the protection of children, and ensure the integrity of the Priesthood.

Victim Assistance Efforts in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Prior to the 2005 Grand Jury Report

- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (<http://bit.ly/USCCBCharter>) in June of 2002. This document required all (Arch)Dioceses to provide the following components of assistance to victims of sexual abuse:
 - *Article 1:* Dioceses are to reach out to victims/survivors and their families and demonstrate a sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being. The diocesan bishop or his representative is to offer to meet with victims and their families.
 - *Article 2:* Dioceses are to have policies and procedures in place to respond promptly to any allegation where there is reason to believe that sexual abuse of a minor has occurred. Dioceses are to have a competent person or persons to coordinate assistance for persons who report having been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other church personnel.
 - *Article 3:* Dioceses are not to enter into settlements which bind the parties to confidentiality unless the victim/survivor requests confidentiality and this request is noted in the text of the agreement.
- As part of its initial response in 2002, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia identified several employees from Catholic Social Services available to provide assistance to victims.
- At that time, the Archdiocese also changed the process for reporting allegations of sexual abuse by removing that responsibility from the Office of the Secretary for Clergy. This change eliminated the need for victims to make a report to a member of the clergy.
- The responsibility for receiving reports from victims and other parties was entrusted to victim assistance staff.
- The Archdiocese established a “clergy status” page on the Archdiocesan website (<http://bit.ly/AOPClergystatus>) in order to provide publicly detailed information regarding clergy with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse against them.

The Expansion of Victim Assistance Efforts in the Archdiocese

After the 2005 Grand Jury Report

- In January 2006, Cardinal Justin Rigali hired Ms. Mary Achilles, an advocate for victims with over 25 years of experience at the local, state, and national levels, who had served as the first-ever Victim Advocate for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under three governors. Ms. Achilles was brought on as a consultant to advise on the response of the Archdiocese to victims of sexual abuse by clergy and Church personnel.
- Working through December 2008, Ms. Achilles assisted Cardinal Rigali with a broad expansion of the Archdiocese's Victim Assistance Program. Actions taken at that time included:
 - The establishment of the Office for Child and Youth Protection in June 2006 to combine safe environment training efforts, which had been in place since 2003, for all clergy, employees, and volunteers with victim assistance services.
 - The creation of a dedicated toll free line (1-888-800-8780) for victims of sexual abuse by clergy and other Church personnel in need of assistance.

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CONTINUED:
Bulletin No. 3

- The simplification of the process of providing financial support for counseling expenses. The Archdiocese utilized a framework for services established by the *Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Crime Victim's Compensation Program*.
- The provision of victim services in the most accessible possible manner, including enhanced counseling services, reimbursement for travel, child care expenses, and a simplified process for verification of services rendered.
- The distribution of press releases to all local media outlets, posting of the same to the Archdiocesan website, and parish announcements when a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer was removed.
- The launch of a public outreach campaign to victims of clergy sexual abuse through print, audio, and electronic media.
- The distribution of letters to alumni of high schools where substantiated allegations of abuse occurred in order to inform, offer support, and encourage any victims to come forward.
- In September 2006, Cardinal Rigali required all priests of the Archdiocese to attend "Witness to the Sorrow". Three adult survivors of clergy sexual abuse spoke of their experiences before the entire body of Archdiocesan priests at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. The event was broadcast live on the Archdiocesan website to enable as many victims as possible to view it. The video is archived at (<http://bit.ly/AOPWitnesstoSorrow>).

Further Enhancements to Victim Assistance

Efforts in the Archdiocese Following the 2011 Grand Jury Report

- Soon after the release of the February 2011 Grand Jury Report, Cardinal Rigali rehired Ms. Mary Achilles as a Victim Services Consultant.
- Following Ms. Achilles' recommendation, the Victim Assistance Program eliminated the "Prohibition to Report" document. Its purpose was to ask a victim (now an adult) to provide signed documentation that they had instructed the Archdiocese not to make a report of abuse to law enforcement.
- The Victim Assistance Program has developed new policies and procedures utilizing the *Consolidated Victim Services Programs Standards of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency* as a guide. These policies have been written to implement proven methods, which include:
 - the restructuring of victim intake guidelines and
 - the reformulation of documenting reports of allegations.
- On February 16, 2011, the creation of the position Delegate for Investigations separated the process of investigating allegations of sexual abuse from the Victim Assistance Program.
- As a result of this procedural change, Victim Assistance Coordinators are now able to focus primarily on providing immediate and long-term support to victims.
- The Archdiocese is actively exploring opportunities to further enhance services for victims which would be separate from the administration of the Church.
- The Archdiocese has contracted with Network of Victim Assistance in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to provide further training in the area of mandatory reporting for approximately 22,000 clergy, employees and volunteers. This initiative goes beyond current requirements for institutions under Pennsylvania law and is in addition to the Safe Environment training previously provided through VIRTUS.

If you are an adult survivor of child sexual abuse and need assistance, please contact the Victim Assistance Program at 1-888-800-8780 or philavac@adphila.org.



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH:

Renewing Our Commitment to Child Protection, Victim Assistance, and Priestly Integrity

Bulletin No. 5

August 2011

Introduction

This is the fifth in a series of periodic bulletin inserts developed by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to provide information to parishioners. Each bulletin insert will focus on action steps the Archdiocese has taken to advance the protection of children, assist victims and ensure the integrity of the Priesthood.

In forming men for the sacred Priesthood, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia renews its commitment to preparing men to proclaim the Gospel and serve the Church faithfully, selflessly, and prayerfully in the person of Jesus Christ.

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary: An Overview

- Since 1838, the fundamental mission of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary (www.scs.edu) has been the formation of Catholic men of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and of other dioceses and religious communities for pastoral service in the Roman Catholic Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Located in Wynnewood, Montgomery County, Saint Charles Borromeo is committed to providing a unified college and theology program of formation in priestly spirituality, pastoral ministry, celibate witness, emotional maturity, intellectual integrity and physical wellness. This program is based upon the Word of God and the Sacraments of the Church and is complemented by personal and community prayer, a comprehensive academic program of liberal arts and theological studies, and a program of pastoral preparation designed primarily for parish ministry. In addition to preparing seminarians for service as priests in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary also educates seminarians from 13 dioceses and religious communities from around the country. Our seminary carefully continues to follow and fulfill the directives of the Holy See regarding the formation of priests.

Recent Developments in Seminary Formation

- In 1971, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued the *Program of Priestly Formation* (PPF), which established standards and guidelines for all seminaries in the United States. The PPF has been updated four times and a new edition is currently under consideration.
- Prior to the mid-1980s, Saint Charles Borromeo and other seminary programs focused primarily on fostering spiritual and academic growth in seminarians. Pastoral formation, the process of helping seminarians apply their knowledge to everyday parish life, was an important but less prominent part of seminary formation.
- Like seminaries throughout the world, the formation process at Saint Charles Borromeo underwent substantial changes after Pope John Paul II's 1992 apostolic exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis (I Will Give You Shepherds)*. In this groundbreaking document, the Pope identified four pillars of seminary formation (human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral) and called for priestly formation rooted in and defined by them.
 - Since 1992, these four pillars have been the standard organizing principles for seminaries, which have developed more distinct human formation programs that are designed to nurture well-rounded candidates for the Priesthood. The programs now include extensive teaching about the value, witness, and meaning of celibacy for the candidate and the Church; proper chaste relationships with those of all ages; and an emphasis on the importance of exemplary moral behavior.
 - These programs also devote increasingly more time and attention to advancing a seminarian's overall formation. Formation advisors, workshops, classes and conferences that focus on affective maturity, community life and priestly virtues are prominent examples.
 - All seminary candidates are required to undergo an extensive psychological evaluation prior to admission to detect any psychopathology as well as identify areas in which ongoing formation and maturation are needed. A feedback interview with the evaluating psychologist is required, as well as the submission of appropriate documentation from civil authorities affirming that the applicant has no criminal background or history of child abuse. Additionally, all seminarians are required to complete the Safe Environment and Mandatory Reporter Training Programs.
- A recent study commissioned by the USCCB (<http://bit.ly/USCCBJohnJayStudy>) and carried out by an independent research team from the John Jay School of Criminal Justice offered this assessment: "Over the past twenty-five years, a remarkable intensification of human formation and deeper understanding of the importance of its role are evident in almost every seminary."

The Four Pillars of Priestly Formation and Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary

Since 1992, there has been an ongoing appreciation for the need to engage each man directly in his human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation. In order to assist him in this process, each seminarian is assigned a priest formation advisor with whom he is required to meet on a regular basis, who provides periodic evaluations, and who helps the seminarian to integrate the four pillars of formation.

Human Formation

- Psychological evaluations and feedback sessions during the application process have produced working relationships with psychologists who have become increasingly effective evaluators of worthy candidates for the seminary.
- Seminarians have attended weekly human formation conferences since 1989 designed to address topics such as personal development, priestly identity, family issues, ministering the sacraments and chaste celibacy. Since 1994, human formation workshops have been offered each semester to the entire Saint Charles Borromeo community with the goal of addressing issues such as sexual maturity, stress management, time management, leadership skills and cultural ministry.

Spiritual Formation

- Seminarians at Saint Charles Borromeo participate in daily Mass, The Liturgy of the Hours (morning and evening prayer every day), weekly Eucharistic adoration, occasional days of recollection and annual retreats. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every day to seminarians.
- Personal spiritual direction is essential to help seminarians grow in holiness and discern the call to ordained ministry. From an approved list of priests, a seminarian chooses a spiritual guide with whom he is required to meet at least once every three weeks.

Intellectual Formation

- Saint Charles Borromeo offers a college program, a pre-theology program and a theology program. Seminary students who complete the college program obtain a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy, while the pre-theology program provides prerequisite philosophy, language, and theology courses to those who have completed college outside of the seminary. The theology program leads to a Master of Divinity after three years of study. Upon completion of additional requirements, students can earn a Master of Arts in Theology prior to ordination.
- Saint Charles Borromeo is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Scheduled visitations by the accrediting bodies occur on a regular basis.

Pastoral Formation

- All seminarians except college freshmen are assigned to a pastoral internship (apostolate assignment), making weekly visits to parishes, elementary and high schools, hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, or shelters. This apostolate experience allows the seminarian to "work in the field" while learning and growing in priestly identity and honing his pastoral skills.
- At the end of each semester, apostolate supervisors provide an evaluation of each seminarian. In recent years, the Director of Pastoral and Apostolic Formation speaks regularly with apostolate supervisors about the men they oversee. Seminarians are also required to provide self-evaluations and discuss them with their formation advisors.

The Seminary, A Center of Learning for the Entire Archdiocese

- Through the Graduate School of Theology and the Program of Catholic Studies (www.studycatholictheology.com), Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary offers a Master of Arts in Theology as well as accredited undergraduate courses, and non-credit certificate programs to any clergy, seminarians, religious, or laity interested in pursuing these studies.
- The programs serve as a firm foundation for doctoral work, provide enrichment in the field of theology, and serve to further professional growth for those serving the Church in parishes and institutions.
- In addition, the Seminary is also home to the Permanent Diaconate Division, which provides for the authentic human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation of those discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate.

To view the first four editions of the "Moving Forward in Faith" bulletin series, please visit www.archphila.org



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

November 29, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of the Lord Jesus be with you!

During Advent the Church throughout the world waits in joyful expectation for the return of her Savior in glory. The prayer of the Church reminds us that “....we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in his glory” (Preface for Advent).

In his first Letter to the Thessalonians Saint Paul says to us: “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing” (1 Thes 5: 16-17). Prayer is truly essential to the Christian life and the key to observing this holy season of Advent in a worthy manner. The saintly Curé of Ars, John Marie Vianney, wrote in his *Catechism on Prayer*: “Prayer is the source of all graces, the mother of all virtues and the universal way by which God wills that we should come to Him”.

I encourage you to maintain a spirit of prayer during the days of Advent. Amidst the many responsibilities, anxieties and concerns which you face each day, turn to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to fill you with His strength and peace. I assure all of you, dear friends, of my own prayerful support in Christ Jesus.

Sincerely yours,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

[Please communicate this letter in an appropriate manner to the faithful on the weekend of November 28-29, 2009]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

November 28, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of the Lord Jesus be with you!

As we begin the Season of Advent, we join our voices with the Psalmist as we proclaim: “Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord” (Ps 122). These sacred days of preparation for Christmas remind us that we are indeed called to rejoice and to dwell in God’s house. Yet, to respond to this call, Saint Paul tells us that we must “awake from sleep . . . throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

The Season of Advent invites us to turn again to the Lord, rejoicing that our Father has sent us a Savior in His Son Jesus Christ. The cause of our rejoicing is the Lord Himself, who in His mercy and love forgives our sins and shares with us His divine life through the Sacraments of His Church. Having received His gift of mercy, we can then truly rejoice.

As we prepare to celebrate anew the birth of Jesus Christ, I encourage you to make this Season of Advent a time of conversion, especially by making a good sacramental Confession. Through the forgiveness of our sins and the reception of sanctifying grace, we will rejoice with deepened faith on Christmas morning and know the peace that Jesus alone can give.

Sincerely yours,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

29 de noviembre del 2009

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

¡Qué la gracia y la paz del Señor Jesús estén con ustedes!

Durante el Adviento la Iglesia en todo el mundo espera con alegre expectación el retorno de su Salvador en gloria. La oración de la Iglesia nos recuerda «... que cuando venga de nuevo, en la majestad de su gloria, revelando así la plenitud de su obra, podamos recibir los bienes prometidos que ahora, en vigilante espera, podemos alcanzar» (Prefacio de Adviento).

En su Primera epístola a los Tesalonicenses san Pablo nos dice: «Estén siempre alegres. Oren sin cesar»(1 Tes 5: 16-17). La oración es verdaderamente esencial para la vida cristiana y la clave a la observancia de un modo digno de este tiempo santo de Adviento. El Santo Cura de Ars, Juan María Vianney, escribió en su *Catecismo en la oración*: «la oración es la fuente de todas las gracias, la madre de todas virtudes y la forma universal por la que Dios dispone que deberíamos llegar a Él».

Los animo a mantener un espíritu de oración durante los días de Adviento. En medio de las muchas responsabilidades, ansiedades y preocupaciones que ustedes enfrentan cada día, busquen al Señor en la oración y pídanle que los llene de su fuerza y su paz. Yo les garantizo a todos ustedes, queridos amigos, mi propio apoyo orante en Cristo Jesús.

Atentamente,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

(Comunicar esta carta de manera adecuada a los fieles el fin de semana 28-29 del 2009)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

28 de noviembre del 2010

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

¡Qué la gracia y la paz del Señor Jesús estén con ustedes!

Cuando comenzamos el tiempo de Adviento, unimos nuestras voces a la del salmista cuando proclamamos: «Me puse alegre cuando me dijeron: Vamos a la casa del Señor» (Sal 122). Estos días sagrados de preparación para la Navidad nos recuerdan que, en efecto, nosotros estamos llamados a alegrarnos y a morar en la casa de Dios. Sin embargo, para responder a esta llamada, san Pablo nos dice que «dejemos, pues, las obras propias de la oscuridad y revistámonos de una coraza de luz».

El tiempo de Adviento nos invita a regresar de nuevo al Señor, alegrándonos de que nuestro Padre nos ha enviado a un Salvador en su Hijo Jesucristo. La causa de nuestra regocijo es el Señor mismo, que en su piedad y amor perdona nuestros pecados y comparte con nosotros su vida divina a través de los sacramentos de su Iglesia. Habiendo recibido su don de la misericordia, podemos entonces verdaderamente alegrarnos.

Mientras nos preparamos para celebrar de nuevo el nacimiento de Jesucristo, yo los animo a que hagan de este tiempo de Adviento un tiempo de conversión, especialmente haciendo una buena confesión sacramental. A través del perdón de nuestros pecados y la recepción de la gracia santificante, nos regocijaremos con una fe profundizada en la mañana de Navidad al conocer la paz que sólo Jesús puede dar

Sinceramente suyos,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

[Favor de comunicar el contenido de esta carta a los fieles de forma apropiada el fin de semana de noviembre 27-28 del 2010]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

March 12, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The **Pastoral Solidarity fund for the Church in Africa** was founded on the basic principles of Pope John Paul II's call to action in *Ecclesia in Africa* and the adoption of the statement *A Call to Solidarity with Africa* from the Bishops of the United States.

Africa faces the economic and social hurdles of enormous debt, epidemics, severe poverty, and political unrest. In spite of these challenges, the Church in Africa is the fastest growing region of the Catholic Church.

Your support of the **Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** assists in the delivery of basic pastoral care which includes religious education, seminary formation and youth ministry. It also supports important projects such as pastoral care for the sick. It will not duplicate the humanitarian or development assistance provided by Catholic Relief Services.

I am asking that a voluntary collection be taken up in the parishes and institutions of the Archdiocese on the weekend of **March 19 and 20, 2011**. On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Africa, I am grateful for your continued generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(This voluntary collection is to be taken on **March 19 and 20, 2011**. Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of **March 12 and 13, 2011**. Collection remittal is to be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to the Office for Accounting Services, 222, North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

January 26, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Gospel of Saint Matthew next weekend, we will hear Jesus proclaiming the Beatitudes as a design for living our lives. In this scripture reading, Jesus relates the foundation of the central tenets for Christian discipleship. He has shown us the way He wants all of us to live our lives; the way to holiness. Our priests seek to live Jesus' message faithfully as His true disciples through pastoral service and sacramental ministry in parish communities, schools, and institutions.

Many of our retired priests continue to assist parishes with their pastoral ministry. Others, due to advanced age and declining health have been compelled to withdraw from active ministry. These priests reside at Villa Saint Joseph, Darby and Regina Coeli, Warminster where they continue to exemplify a message of hope to all by their dedicated lives of prayer and sacrifice offered for the people of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Through your generosity, the Chapel at Villa Saint Joseph was recently renovated, thus providing the priests with an inspiring place to celebrate Mass, make a Holy Hour and offer personal prayers in the presence of the Lord.

The **annual Collection for the Care of Aging and Ill Priests** of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will be taken in all parishes on the weekend of February 2-3, 2008. This annual collection is an opportunity for the faithful to express their gratitude for the many blessings received through the ministry of priests. May God bless you and your loved ones for your generous response to this annual appeal.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of January 26 and 27, 2008; the collection is taken up the following weekend of February 2 and 3. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

February 1, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the public ministry of Jesus, much of His time was spent reaching out to those in need of His healing love and compassion. In the Gospel of Mark next Sunday, Jesus cures Simon's mother-in-law who lay sick with a fever and after sunset, "He cured many who were sick with various diseases..." They needed His help. Jesus did for them what they could not do for themselves. As a result, the next day His disciples told Him, "Everyone is looking for you."

Much of the priestly ministry is devoted to continuing this healing love and compassion of Jesus to the sick and those in need. Priests administer the sacraments to the homebound and those in hospitals and nursing homes. They bring hope and comfort to all who are looking for and in need of Jesus.

Many of these priests who have faithfully ministered to God's people throughout their lives are now in need of care themselves. The Church of Philadelphia provides homes for these faithful ministers at Villa Saint Joseph, Darby; Regina Coeli, Warminster; and Saint Francis Country House, Darby where their physical, emotional and spiritual needs are provided for on a daily basis. They are now ministered to with the same love and compassion of Christ they brought to so many others over the years.

This continuing care of our priests is aided by our **ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE CARE OF AGING AND INFIRM PRIESTS** of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia which will be taken in all parishes next weekend **February 7-8, 2009**. You can show your love and support for our retired and infirm priests by your prayerful and generous financial support of this important collection.

May God bless you for your generous response to this annual appeal.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of **January 31- February 1**; the collection is taken up the following weekend of **February 7 and 8**.

Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

January 30, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; cloth the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own” (Isaiah 58). The Prophet’s appeal to charity extends through the centuries to all our brothers and sisters, but at this moment in a particular way to our retired and infirm priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Many of our priests who have served so faithfully the people of God and ministered in Jesus’ name throughout the Archdiocese are now residents of Villa Saint Joseph and Saint Francis Country House in Darby, Regina Coeli in Warminster, and a number of Catholic Health Care facilities in the Archdiocese. They are given wonderful physical, mental and spiritual care by many excellent caregivers. However, we cannot provide this well-deserved service to them without your valuable prayerful and financial support. They depend on you as they face the challenges of advanced age and physical infirmity.

Our Annual Collection for the Care of Aging and Infirm Priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will be taken up in all parishes in the Archdiocese next weekend, **February 5 and February 6, 2011**. In the past you have shown your gratitude to our priests through your generous support. Now I beg you once again to offer your loving commitment to them in their time of need. Our retired and infirm priests remember you in their daily prayers and Masses. Please remember them with your generous prayerful and financial assistance.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of January 29 and January 30, 2011. The collection is taken up the weekend of February 5 and February 6, 2011. Collection remittal should be made to: ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA, Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

17 de febrero del 2010

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

Durante muchos años, los católicos en la Europa Central y Oriental y en la antigua Unión Soviética han practicado su fe en las sombras por temor de persecución. A pesar de estos obstáculos, los católicos siguen aumentando en fe y números. El amor perfecto de Dios ha sostenido y fortalecido el pueblo y la Iglesia, creando una nueva generación de creyentes mientras sostiene a quienes han pasado por los tiempos más oscuros.

Su participación en la **Colecta para la Iglesia en Europa Central y Oriental** ayudará en la construcción de iglesias; capacitación y educación de párrocos y laicos; en el mantenimiento de orfanatos; en la evangelización de niños, adultos y personas mayores, así como en proporcionar becas a estudiantes católicos.

Esta colecta se llevará a cabo en su parroquia en un fin de semana durante la cuaresma determinado por su párroco. Estoy agradecido, en nombre de los hermanos y hermanas católicos en Europa Central y Oriental, por su sacrificio generoso y oraciones.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

[Esta colecta debe hacerse durante cualquier domingo de cuaresma. Favor de comunicar el contenido de esta carta a los feligreses, de la manera más adecuada, durante el fin de semana anterior a la fecha designada para la colecta. La recaudación de la colecta debe hacerse pagadera a: *ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA* y enviada a: *Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103*.



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

February 17, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For many years, Catholics in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have practiced their faith in the shadows for fear of persecution. Despite these obstacles, Catholics continue to grow in faith and in numbers. God's perfect love has sustained and strengthened the people and the Church, creating a new generation of believers while sustaining those who have made it through the darkest of times.

Your participation in the **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe** will assist in the building of churches; training and educating of pastors and lay people; sustaining orphanages; evangelizing children, adults and seniors as well as providing scholarships to Catholic students.

This collection will be conducted in your parish on a weekend during Lent as determined by your Pastor. I am grateful, on behalf of our Catholic brothers and sisters in Central and Eastern Europe, for your generous sacrifice and prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(This collection is to be taken on any Sunday during Lent. Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend prior to the date scheduled for this collection. Collection remittal is to be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)



COMMUNICATION FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA: THE ARCHDIOCESAN REVIEW BOARD IN CONTEXT

May 19, 2011

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia continues to move forward, renewing its commitment to the protection of children, to victim assistance and to ensuring the integrity of the priesthood. Since the release of the Grand Jury Report on February 10th, it has been a high priority of the Archdiocese to address the serious concerns which the report raised. Our approach has been to carefully and urgently reexamine, reevaluate and strengthen our processes in dealing with allegations of the sexual abuse of minors.

From the outset, the Archdiocese decided not to take a stance of defensiveness, not to enter into point-by-point debates, and not to engage in confrontations which would distract from our commitment and goal. Instead, the Archdiocese decided to place every energy and effort at the service of the essential task at hand.

A recent commentary published in *Commonweal* by the chair of the Archdiocesan Review Board was reflective of her own opinions and not those of the entire board. This piece, and the media coverage that followed, have misrepresented the Archdiocese and its commitment to directly addressing the issues of sexual abuse. The Archdiocese recognizes the independent nature of the Review Board and values the expertise and contribution of its individual members. Despite the pain and negative effects caused by the article, the Archdiocese remains committed to the work ahead, collaborating with the Review Board, to which it is most grateful. A clarification, which includes information already provided, follows below:

Facts Regarding Actions Taken:

- According to the Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* dioceses are to "have a review board that functions as a confidential, consultative body to the bishop. The board is to advise the diocesan bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of a cleric's suitability for ministry." Our Review Board has made every effort to do just that.
- Following the release of the Grand Jury Report on February 10th, Cardinal Rigali, joined by Auxiliary Bishops Timothy Senior and Michael Fitzgerald, as well as Gina Maisto Smith, the veteran child abuse prosecutor with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, met with the members of the Archdiocesan Review Board at their request on February 19th to discuss their reaction to the grand jury report and to introduce Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith had already been hired on February 16th by Cardinal Rigali to review cases of concern to the Grand Jury, as well as the procedures employed by the Archdiocese, and to assist in its communications in the course of dealing with the District Attorney's Office.

- Cardinal Rigali created the position of Delegate for Investigations on February 11th. The first priority of this new position is to serve as a central point for receiving and reviewing all reports of sexual misconduct and to insure that they are immediately reported to law enforcement and Child Protective Services. In addition, the Delegate has the task of developing new processes and procedures for the investigation of sexual abuse allegations, including the presentation of those cases to the Review Board. On March 7th, Al Toczydlowski, a former Philadelphia Deputy District Attorney with over 30 years experience, began his work in this position.
- On February 23rd the Review Board members presented a letter to Cardinal Rigali that demonstrated their commitment to collaboration, concluding, “We must not lose sight of our goal and we must not lose our commitment to achieve that goal.” In the letter, the Review Board noted that this is not a time for “defensiveness or animosity.” The Review Board also observed “We have nothing to hide and the Archdiocese has nothing to hide.” The letter outlined significant improvements that over time had already been implemented by the Archdiocese and provided a list of serious and thoughtful additional recommendations.
- On March 18th, Bishop Fitzgerald, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Toczydlowski attended the regularly scheduled Review Board meeting. At that time, Mr. Toczydlowski was introduced to the group and his responsibilities were explained. Mrs. Smith spoke regarding the cases of concern to the Grand Jury and her processes in reviewing them. At this meeting members of the Review Board agreed to make themselves available to Mr. Toczydlowski to contribute to the draft of new policies.
- The Review Board’s recommendations were given to the Delegate for Investigations and have already in large part been incorporated into the draft of revised policies for the handling of allegations of sexual abuse. On June 11th, the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Review Board, that draft policy will be presented to the members of the Review Board with an opportunity for them to offer input and further discussion.

In the days, weeks, and months ahead, the Archdiocese will continue to address the task at hand, renewing our commitment to protect children, provide victim assistance, and ensure the integrity of the priesthood. As the Review Board members wrote in their letter to Cardinal Rigali: “Together, and with the help of our colleagues in law enforcement and victims’ services communities, we can move forward with renewed resolve.”



**COMUNICACIÓN DE LA
ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE FILADELFIA
EL COMITÉ DE REVISIÓN ARQUIDIOCESANO EN
CONTEXTO**
Mayo 19 del 2011

La Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia continúa avanzando, renovando su compromiso con la protección de los niños, la asistencia a las víctimas y para asegurar la integridad del sacerdocio. Desde la publicación del Informe del Gran Jurado el 10 de febrero, ha sido una prioridad de la Arquidiócesis abordar la grave preocupación que el informe planteó. Nuestro enfoque ha sido cuidadosa y urgentemente volver a considerar, evaluar y fortalecer nuestros procesos en el tratamiento de las denuncias de abuso sexual de menores.

Desde el principio, la Arquidiócesis decidió no adoptar una postura defensiva, no entrar en debates punto por punto, y no participar en los enfrentamientos que apartan del compromiso y la meta. En cambio, la Arquidiócesis decidió poner toda su energía y esfuerzo al servicio de la tarea esencial en cuestión.

Un comentario reciente publicado en *Commonweal* por la presidenta del *Archdiocesan Review Board* (Comité de Revisión Arquidiocesano) reflejó sus propias opiniones y no las del comité en su totalidad. Este comentario, y la cobertura de los medios de comunicación que siguieron, han tergiversado la Arquidiócesis y su compromiso de dirigirse directamente a las cuestiones del abuso sexual. La Arquidiócesis reconoce la naturaleza independiente del Comité de Revisión y valora su pericia y la contribución de sus miembros individuales. A pesar del dolor y efectos negativos causados por el artículo, la Arquidiócesis permanece comprometida al trabajo que espera, en colaboración con el Comité de Revisión, al que estamos muy agradecidos. Una clarificación, que incluye información ya proveída, sigue abajo:

Datos sobre las actividades realizadas:

- De acuerdo con el *Estatuto para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes* de los obispos, las diócesis «deben tener, asimismo, un comité de revisión que obrará como un cuerpo de consulta confidencial para el obispo[...]. Este comité debe asesorar al obispo diocesano en su análisis de las imputaciones de abuso sexual de menores y en su determinación de las aptitudes de un clérigo para el ministerio». Nuestro Comité de Revisión ha hecho todo lo posible para hacer precisamente eso.
- Tras la publicación del Informe del Gran Jurado el 10 de febrero, el cardenal Rigali, acompañado por los obispos auxiliares Timothy Senior y Michael Fitzgerald, así como Gina Maisto Smith, la experta fiscal de abuso infantil de la Oficina del Distrito de Filadelfia, se reunió el 19 de febrero con los miembros del Comité de Revisión de la Arquidiócesis, a petición de estos, para dialogar sobre su reacción ante el Informe del Gran Jurado y para introducir a la señora Smith. La señora Smith había sido ya contratada el 16 de febrero por el cardenal Rigali para revisar los casos de interés para el Gran Jurado, así como los procedimientos empleados por la Arquidiócesis, y para ayudar en sus comunicaciones en el curso de las negociaciones con la Oficina del Fiscal del Distrito.

- El cardenal Rigali creó la posición de Delegado de Investigaciones el 11 de febrero. La primera prioridad de esta nueva posición es servir como un punto central para recibir y examinar todas las denuncias de abusos sexuales y para asegurar que éstas serán comunicadas inmediatamente a las autoridades civiles y al *Child Protective Services* (servicios de protección de niños). Además, el delegado tiene la tarea de desarrollar nuevos procesos y procedimientos para la investigación de acusaciones de abuso sexual, incluida la presentación de los casos al Comité de Revisión. El 7 de marzo, Al Toczydlowski, antiguo Vicefiscal del Distrito de Filadelfia con más de 30 años de experiencia, comenzó su trabajo en esta posición.
- El 23 de febrero los miembros del Comité de Revisión presentaron una carta al cardenal Rigali que demostraba su compromiso de colaboración, concluyendo: «Nosotros no debemos perder de vista nuestra meta y no debemos perder nuestro compromiso de alcanzar esa meta». En la carta, el Comité de Revisión señaló que éste no es el momento para una «actitud defensiva o animosa». El Comité de Revisión también observó: «No tenemos nada que ocultar y la Arquidiócesis no tiene nada que ocultar». La carta indicó mejoras significativas que con el tiempo ya habían sido ejecutadas por la Arquidiócesis y proporcionó una lista de recomendaciones adicionales serias y bien pensadas.
- El 18 de marzo, el obispo Fitzgerald, la señora Smith y el señor Toczydlowski asistieron a la reunión regular del Comité de Revisión. En ese momento, el señor Toczydlowski fue presentado al grupo y sus responsabilidades fueron detalladas. La señora Smith habló sobre los casos de interés para el Gran Jurado y sus métodos de revisión de los mismos. En esta reunión los miembros del Comité de Revisión accedieron a ponerse a disposición del señor Toczydlowski para contribuir a la versión preliminar de nuevas políticas.
- Las recomendaciones del Comité de Revisión fueron dadas al Delegado para las Investigaciones y ya en gran parte, han sido incorporadas en la versión preliminar de la política para el manejo de las denuncias de abuso sexual. El 11 de junio, en la próxima reunión programada del Comité de Revisión, esa versión revisada de la política será presentada a los miembros del Comité de Revisión con la oportunidad de ofrecer su aporte y seguir deliberando.

En los días, semanas y meses venideros, la Arquidiócesis seguirá abordando la tarea en cuestión, renovando nuestro compromiso de proteger a los niños, proporcionar asistencia a las víctimas, y garantizar la integridad del sacerdocio. Como los miembros del Comité de Revisión escribieron en su carta al cardenal Rigali: «Juntos, y con la ayuda de nuestros colegas en las autoridades civiles y en las comunidades de servicios a las víctimas, podemos avanzar con determinación renovada».



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

March 22, 2010

Dear Monsignor/Father,

April is Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness month. I am writing to encourage you to take time during the month of April to pray for the victims who were sexually abused by members of our clergy and for the protection of the children who are currently in our care.

It is important that we continue as a church to express our compassion and care for those who have been sexually assaulted by the clergy, and for their families and loved ones. We recognize that there are many others who have been sexually abused as children by other adults. We pray and reach out to **all** victims of childhood sexual abuse.

Enclosed with this letter are several prayers and intercessions that speak to healing for survivors, encouragement for all those who work towards the prevention of child abuse, and recognition of the harm done to those who have suffered.

I ask that you consider using the sample intercessions at Masses during the month of April. They express our intentions to remember the victims of clergy sexual abuse, all survivors of child abuse, and those who work to make a difference in promoting prevention and healing. Also included with this mailing are A Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse and Child Abuse Prevention Blessing. These may also be used at special times and at meetings throughout the month of April.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides other materials for your consideration which are listed on <http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/resources.shtml>.

The lifelong effects of childhood sexual abuse include depression, anxiety, substance abuse and flashbacks. The sexual abuse of a child impacts family relationships. For victims of clergy sexual abuse and their loved ones there is a sense of painful betrayal. While the Archdiocese of Philadelphia continues to provide comprehensive services to victims and their loved ones, I feel it is equally imperative that we pray for compassion and healing.

I ask that you join me in this effort to pray as a community for the victims of clergy sexual abuse, their families, and our Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

Justin Card. Rigali
Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia



OFFICE FOR CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

VICTIM ASSISTANCE • SAFE ENVIRONMENT
(888) 800-8780 • (215) 587-2466 • Fax (215) 587-3711
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

April is Child Abuse Prevention month and Sexual Assault Awareness month.

We pray that God will continue to bless and guide our efforts to bring healing to survivors of sexual abuse and to protect children from harm. We offer the following **prayer petitions** for inclusion in the prayer of the faithful during the month of April:

For our children, that the gift of their innocence will be nurtured and protected by our parish community, let us pray to the Lord...

(Second Sunday of Easter: in John's Gospel, Jesus leaves His gift of peace with His followers.)

For the adults in our parish, that God will bless them with courage and strength to be protectors and advocates for children, let us pray to the Lord....

(Third Sunday of Easter: in John's Gospel Jesus entrusts the care of His sheep to Peter)

For survivors of abuse, and for their families and friends who support them, that God's providence will lead them to peace and wholeness, we pray to the Lord

(Fourth Sunday of Easter: the reading from Revelations speaks of those who have survived a time of great distress, and in John's Gospel Jesus states that His sheep will not perish, no one can take them from Him.)

Sample Intercessions developed by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
may also be used:

For the Church and its leaders, especially our Holy Father, bishops, and all entrusted with the care of the Lord's flock, to follow the example of Christ, who appears to the disciples with a greeting of peace, we pray to the Lord...

For civic leaders entrusted with upholding the common good and justice for all, to act with compassion as they protect the most vulnerable from all harm, we pray to the Lord...

For parents, mentors, teachers, coaches, and all who work with young people, to act and serve with love, following the Lord's commands, we pray to the Lord....



For families to live in peace, providing safe and nurturing environments for their children, we pray to the Lord...

For those who have suffered as victims of abuse, to find hope and healing in the Risen Lord's gift of peace, we pray to the Lord...

For those who provide help for the abused: counselors, therapists, advocates, to act with wisdom and compassion in their ministry of healing, we pray to the Lord...

There is a liturgy guide available on USCCB's website at: www.usccb.org. for suggestions of ways to incorporate these messages in homilies during the month of April

A Rosary for Healing and Protection is offered on the Archdiocese's website with other resources.

<http://archphila.org/protection/Resources>



A PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

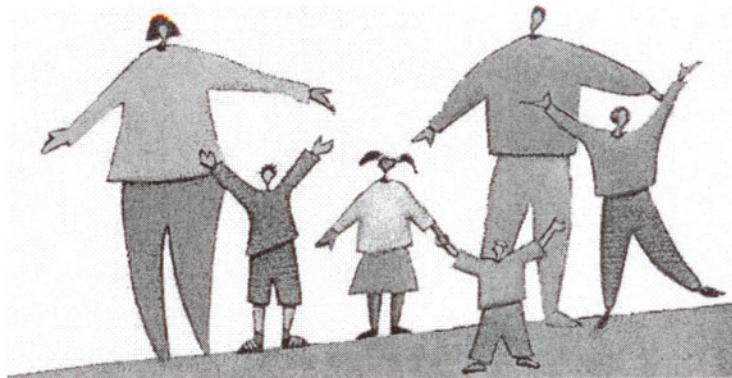
Hear our cries as we agonize
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.

Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
soothe restless hearts with hope,
steady shaken spirits with faith:
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform our brokenness.

Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
so that we may act with justice
and find peace in you.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION BLESSING

Dear Lord, We ask *You* to bless these *Your* holy people who have participated in the Church's efforts to help stop child sexual abuse. Open their hearts to *Your* call to be the "ears, eyes and voice of children and young people" everywhere. Give them the vision and grace needed to fulfill the special commitments that each of them has made to making their homes, churches, schools, communities and world a safer place for all God's Children. Amen



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

September 3, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Established in 1884, the Black and Indian Mission Collection is the embodiment of the Catholic Church's concern for evangelizing the Black, Native American and Indigenous peoples of the United States. Your financial contribution to this fund assists clergy, religious and lay catechists, parishes, schools and catechetical centers for the evangelization of the Black and Native American peoples throughout our country.

Locally, through grants awarded from this collection, a number of parishes and organizations within the Archdiocese are able to fund pastoral outreach and evangelization programs. It is only through your continued generosity toward the Collection that such efforts are realized.

The **Collection for the Black and Indian Missions** will be held in all parishes of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on the weekend of **September 10 and 11, 2011**. I ask your continued prayers and generous financial support of this collection.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Apostolic Administrator

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of September 3 and 4, 2011; the collection is taken up the following weekend of September 10 and 11, 2011. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

August 29, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since 1884 parishes throughout the United States have expressed their solidarity with the African American and Native American communities through their contributions to the **Collection for the Black and Indian Missions**. This collection offers assistance to some of the poorest areas of our nation so that the Gospel of Christ can be proclaimed and lived.

Locally, various programs of pastoral outreach and evangelization continue to receive a portion of their funding through grants awarded from this collection. This funding, therefore, assists a number of parishes and programs within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

I encourage your enthusiastic response to **Collection for the Black and Indian Missions** which will be taken up on the weekend of **September 6 and 7**. I offer my grateful thanks on behalf of all those who will benefit from your thoughtful generosity

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of **August 30 and 31**; the collection is taken up the following weekend of **September 6 and 7, 2008**. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

September 3, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Evangelization and 125 years of service among the Black, Indian, Eskimo and Aleute communities has been the singular purpose of the Black and Indian Mission Collection. Through the years, the funds from the annual appeal have been responsible for supporting the Church's evangelization efforts among the Black and Native American communities in the United States.

Locally, through grants awarded from this collection, a number of parishes and organizations within the Archdiocese are able to fund pastoral outreach and evangelization programs. It is only through your continued generosity toward the Collection that such efforts are realized.

The **Collection for the Black and Indian Missions** will be held in all parishes of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on the weekend of **September 11 and 12, 2010**. I ask your continued prayers and generous financial support of this collection.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of September 4 and 5, 2010; the collection is taken up the following weekend of September 11 and 12, 2010. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)

AN UPDATE FROM THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION

August 2011

The Blue Ribbon Commission was formed in December 2010 by Cardinal Justin Rigali to serve as a strategic advisory group.¹ We were charged with providing recommendations to ensure that Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is of excellent quality, affordable, accessible and sustainable far into the future.

We are most grateful to all for the sacrifices made to provide children with a Catholic education and write at this time to offer you an update on our progress.

THE CHALLENGES FACING CATHOLIC EDUCATION TODAY

Since our formation, we focused on several basic realities:

- Since the introduction of parochial education by Saint John Neumann in the mid-19th century our schools have distinguished themselves as models of excellence in education and faith formation.
- Our schools are integral to the fabric of our communities and have made invaluable contributions to the educational and spiritual welfare of the region since their inception. As such, we are stewards of a critical component of our shared Catholic identity and tradition.
- The long-term sustainability of Catholic education is threatened in its current form by naturally occurring shifts in social, economic, and demographic patterns. We must address these trends if Catholic education is to be available for future generations. Doing so will require difficult, but necessary decisions and now is the time to make them.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THOSE INVESTING IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

As we began our work earlier this year we established a set of guiding principles as a framework. These begin with the overarching recommendation that the Archdiocese make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the opportunity for a high quality, affordable, and accessible Catholic education be available to all those who desire it.

Our efforts envision a priority for Catholic children while maintaining a commitment to all others who seek the benefits of Catholic education, especially those in urban and under-served communities. Specific principles of our framework are:

- The structure, location, and density of Catholic high schools and elementary schools should reflect the desire to ensure quality, affordability, and accessibility for those who seek Catholic school education for their children.
- Various alternatives to the traditional parish elementary school must be considered in order to meet this goal. Alternatives include, but are not limited to, regional schools, multi-parish schools, and independent schools.
- The commitment to those in urban and under-served communities must reflect a need-based approach featuring various educational alternatives funded by diverse sources.
- Archdiocesan education strategies must always recognize that its schools play a critical role in faith formation and provide an opportunity for evangelization.

¹ For information about the members of the Blue Ribbon Commission, please visit www.catholicschools-phl.org.

The structure, location, and density of Parish Religious Education Programs (PREP) is essential to providing Catholic faith and life education and formation for those children attending non-Catholic schools. We also recognize that our children with special needs deserve adequate support for both their academic needs and their social development.

DATA AND FEEDBACK

We recognize that obtaining data about our schools and listening to those most heavily invested in Catholic education—parents, guardians, teachers, and administrators—is essential to our work. It enables us to make informed and substantive recommendations. To date, we have gathered data and information from various sources. The major initiatives undertaken in this regard are outlined here:

- An online survey launched in the spring resulted in responses from over 3,500 parents and guardians as well as approximately 700 teachers and administrators.
- Analysis of student demographics and attendance data, both actual and forecast, for all regions served by the Archdiocese.
- Interviews were conducted with the Connelly Foundation and Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS). We also met with Regional Vicars and with the Vicar for Cultural Ministry.
- Presentations for those responsible for Parish Religious Education Programs (PREP) focused on the increase in enrollment in these programs.
- Archdiocesan Special Education programs for children with special needs were also examined.
- During the fall of 2010, data was gathered from six regional meetings where parents and guardians expressed their desire for quality schools.

We are currently using this information to define various strategies that will meet our goal of excellent, affordable, accessible, and sustainable Catholic education.

THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

As indicated earlier, the Commission is engaged in a comprehensive and critical review of the key elements of model Catholic schools and religious education programs for the future. While adhering to the critical components of our shared Catholic identity, Catholic tradition and faith formation, our schools will continue to offer outstanding academic programs for which they have become distinguished. They will also include the disciplines necessary to prepare the students for success in the 21st century.

We are committed to providing those elements in the most academically excellent, affordable, accessible and sustainable manner possible. We must make decisions regarding the composition and density of our schools that are reflective of maintaining that commitment while providing for the needs and expectations of parents, guardians, students, teachers and administrators. These decisions will be difficult, but they are essential to the continuation of quality Catholic education in the Archdiocese.

We wish we were in a position to be more specific, but much has yet to be done. We will provide further updates as our work progresses. Thank you once again for your commitment to Catholic education.

Sincerely,
The Blue Ribbon Commission

CONTACT THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION

We want to hear from you. To provide additional feedback and information, contact us by visiting <http://bit.ly/AOPContactBRC> or by writing: The Blue Ribbon Commission | c/o The Office of Catholic Education | 222 North 17th Street | Philadelphia, PA 19103

UNA ACTUALIZACIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN *BLUE RIBBON*

Agosto 2011

La Comisión Blue Ribbon fue formada en diciembre del 2010 por el cardenal Justin Rigali para servir como grupo asesor estratégico.¹ Estábamos a cargo de proveer recomendaciones para garantizar que la educación católica en la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia es de excelente calidad, asequible, accesible y sostenible en el futuro.

Estamos muy agradecidos a todos por los sacrificios realizados para proporcionar a los niños una educación católica y escribimos en este momento para ofrecerle información actualizada sobre nuestro progreso.

LOS DESAFÍOS QUE ENCUENTRA LA EDUCACIÓN CATÓLICA HOY

Desde nuestra formación, nos hemos centrado en varias realidades básicas:

- Desde la introducción de la educación parroquial por san Juan Neumann en el siglo 19 nuestras escuelas se han distinguido como modelos de excelencia en la educación y la formación en la fe.
- Nuestras escuelas son parte integral del tejido de nuestras comunidades y han hecho valiosas contribuciones a la educación y el bienestar espiritual de la región desde sus inicios. Como tal, somos administradores de un componente crítico de nuestra compartida identidad católica y tradición.
- El poder sostener a largo plazo la educación católica se ve amenazado en su forma actual por los cambios que ocurren naturalmente en los patrones sociales, económicos y demográficos. Debemos hacer frente a estas tendencias, si la educación católica va a estar disponible para las generaciones futuras. Para hacerlo es necesario tomar decisiones difíciles, pero necesarias, y ahora es el momento de hacerlas.

SATISFACIENDO LAS NECESIDADES DE LOS QUE INVIERTEN EN LA EDUCACIÓN CATÓLICA

Cuando comenzamos nuestro trabajo a principios de este año establecimos un conjunto de principios guía como marco. Estos comienzan con la recomendación general de que la Arquidiócesis haga todos los esfuerzos razonables para asegurar que la oportunidad de una educación católica de gran calidad, asequible y accesible esté disponible para todos aquellos que la deseen.

Nuestros esfuerzos comprenden una prioridad para los niños católicos, manteniendo un compromiso con todos aquellos que buscan los beneficios de la educación católica, especialmente aquellos en las comunidades urbanas y carentes de servicios. Los principios específicos de nuestro marco son:

- La estructura, ubicación y densidad de las escuelas católicas y las escuelas primarias deberían reflejar el deseo de asegurar la calidad, asequibilidad y accesibilidad para aquellos que buscan la educación de escuela católica para sus hijos.
- Varias alternativas a la tradicional escuela primaria parroquial deben ser consideradas con el fin de cumplir este objetivo. Las alternativas incluyen, pero no están limitadas, a escuelas regionales, escuelas de múltiples parroquias, y escuelas independientes.
- El compromiso hacia aquellos en comunidades urbanas y carentes de servicios debe reflejar un enfoque basado en las necesidades destacando varias alternativas educacionales financiadas por diversas fuentes.
- Las estrategias de la educación arquidiocesana deben siempre reconocer que sus escuelas desempeñan un papel fundamental en la formación de fe y proporcionan una oportunidad para la evangelización.

¹ Para información acerca de los miembros de la Comisión Blue Ribbon, por favor visite www.catholicschools-phl.org.

La estructura, ubicación y densidad de los Programas Parroquiales de Educación Religiosa (PREP por sus siglas en inglés) son esenciales para proporcionar educación y formación de fe católica y vida de los niños que asisten a las escuelas que no son católicas. También reconocemos que nuestros niños con necesidades especiales merecen apoyo adecuado tanto para sus necesidades académicas como para su desarrollo social.

DATOS Y COMENTARIOS

Reconocemos que obtener datos acerca de nuestras escuelas y escuchar a los que más invierten en la educación católica—padres, tutores legales, maestros, y administradores—es esencial para nuestro trabajo. Nos permite dar recomendaciones informadas y sustanciales. Hasta la fecha, hemos recogido datos e información de varias fuentes. Las principales iniciativas emprendidas en este sentido se describen aquí:

- Una encuesta en línea realizada en la primavera resultó en respuestas de más de 3.500 padres y tutores legales, así como alrededor de 700 maestros y administradores.
- Análisis de la demografía de los estudiantes y los datos de asistencia, ambos reales y previstos, para todas las regiones servidas por la Arquidiócesis
- Las entrevistas se realizaron con la *Connelly Foundation and Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools* (Fundación Connelly y Liderazgo Empresarial Organizado para las Escuelas Católicas [BLOCS por sus siglas en inglés]). También nos reunimos con los Vicarios Regionales y con el Vicario para Ministerios Multiculturales.
- Presentaciones para los responsables de los programas parroquiales de educación religiosa (PREP) centradas en el incremento de la matrícula en estos programas.
- Los programas de Educación Especial Arquidiocesana para niños con necesidades especiales también fueron examinados.
- Durante el otoño del 2010 se recogieron datos en seis reuniones regionales donde los padres y tutores legales expresaron su deseo de escuelas de calidad.

Estamos actualmente usando esta información para definir variadas estrategias que cumplirán nuestro objetivo de una educación católica excelente, asequible, accesible y sostenible.

EL FUTURO DE LA EDUCACIÓN CATÓLICA EN LA ARQUIDIÓCESIS

Como se indicó anteriormente, la Comisión está trabajando en una revisión completa y crítica de los elementos claves de escuelas católicas modelos y de programas de educación religiosa para el futuro. Adhiriéndose a los componentes críticos de nuestra identidad católica compartida, tradición católica y formación de fe, nuestras escuelas seguirán ofreciendo programas académicos excepcionales por los cuales ellas se han distinguido. Ellas también incluirán las disciplinas necesarias para preparar a los estudiantes para el éxito en el siglo veintiuno.

Estamos comprometidos a proporcionar esos elementos de la manera más académicamente excelente, asequible, accesible y sostenible. Debemos tomar decisiones en cuanto a la composición y densidad de nuestras escuelas que sean reflexivas del mantenimiento de ese compromiso mientras se atienden las necesidades y expectativas de los padres, tutores legales, estudiantes, maestros y administradores. Estas decisiones serán difíciles, pero son esenciales para la continuación de la calidad de la educación católica en la Arquidiócesis.

Nos gustaría que estuviéramos en condiciones de ser más específicos, pero aún queda mucho por hacer. Vamos a ofrecer más actualizaciones a medida que nuestro trabajo avance. Gracias una vez más por su compromiso con la educación católica.

Atentamente,
La Comisión *Blue Ribbon*

CONTACTE A LA COMISIÓN *BLUE RIBBON*

Deseamos escucharlos. Para ponerse en contacto con nosotros para observaciones e información adicional visite: <http://bit.ly/AOPContactBRC> o escriba a: The Blue Ribbon Commission | c/o The Office of Catholic Education | 222 North 17th Street | Philadelphia, PA 19103



In-Depth Evaluation of Parish Life

Prayer: Call to Conversion and Holiness

O God and Father of us all,
you give us the Church
as the sign of our salvation in Jesus your Son.

We pray for all the members of the Church
in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia:
bishops, priests, deacons, religious and laity,
that we may always be united with Christ
and his mission.

We entrust to you all our parishes, schools
and institutions,
their many challenges and needs in our time,
that they may grow in fidelity to the Gospel
and its way of life.

We ask for the grace
of greater participation in the Sacraments,
especially the Holy Eucharist and Penance,
that they may sow the seeds of a deeper life of faith
and priestly vocation.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Saint John Neumann and Saint Katharine Drexel
obtain for all of us in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
a renewed commitment to Conversion of heart
and Holiness of life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Fall 2011

We are blessed in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia by the vibrancy of so many parish communities, by the fidelity of our priests, the service of our deacons, the contribution of our religious, and the active participation of our laity. This vibrancy demands that we continue to be proactive in guaranteeing that our parishes continue to have what is needed to accomplish their role in the mission of Christ. To do so requires that we examine the demographics of our parishes in light of the number of priests available to serve our communities, in light of the migration of our people, and in light of our financial resources to maintain and support our parishes.

Such an examination is itself a “moment of great hope” for each parish community. It serves as an opportunity to renew the commitment of the people to the priorities of our Catholic faith and our archdiocesan family. It also calls forth the gifts of all in the parish and presents an opportunity for collaboration appropriate to the state of life of each person.

Called to Conversion and Holiness

Pastoral Letter, October 19, 2010

Cardinal Justin Rigali

Overview

The **In-Depth Evaluation of Parish Life** is a process designed for the parish implementation committee to review the life and events of each parish in relation to the mission of the Church. This process is divided into seven areas of concentration to be discussed at monthly meetings throughout the year.

1. A Worshiping Parish: Prayer and Sacramental Life
2. A Welcoming and Caring Parish: Family and Community
3. A Witnessing and Proclaiming Parish: Invitation and Evangelization
4. An Educational and Formational Parish: Initiation and Faith Formation
5. A Parish Responsive to Others: Pastoral Outreach and Service for Justice
6. An Effectively Administered Parish: Leadership and Care of Facilities, Personnel and Finances
7. A Gifted Parish, Living Responsibly: Stewardship Formation and Practice

Process

Each area of concentration invites the implementation committee to: look at the life and events of the parish in light of the mission of Christ; assess the external conditions which affect the parish and establish priorities for 3-5 years.

Before each meeting, the members of the committee should receive, reflect on and fill out the Parish Survey. At the monthly meeting, each member shares what they see as the strengths and weaknesses in that particular area of parish life. It is from this discussion that two or three agreed upon priorities are determined. The committee will then develop concrete actions, timelines and responsibilities to accomplish the priorities.

At the conclusion of this in-depth evaluation, the results will be shared with all members of the parish. Results will also be shared with regional Bishops at the time of the parish canonical visit. A brief summary of the results will be sent to the Office for Archdiocesan Planning Initiatives.

Process for In-Depth Evaluation of Parish Life

Pre-Meeting Preparation



Getting Started

- Convene committee established for discussion of pastoral letter: *Called to Conversion and Holiness*. This committee consists of the parish Pastoral Council and representatives from: Parish Financial Council, Catholic School, Religious Education Program and other active parishioners.
- Consider using a trained facilitator to assist in this process. For information call the Office of Research and Planning at 215-587-3545.
- *Schedule meetings* from October to May
- *Provide materials* for each committee member prior to each meeting:
 - ❖ Parish Survey pertaining to that month's discussion (each committee member should read and fill out before the meeting)
 - ❖ Agenda for that month

Meeting Agendas and Parish Surveys can be downloaded at:

http://archphila.org/conversion/conversion_index.htm

Suggested Timeline of Monthly Topics

- A Worshiping Parish: Prayer and Sacramental Life, **Oct. 2011**
- A Welcoming and Caring Parish: Family and Community, **Nov. 2011**
- A Witnessing and Proclaiming Parish: Invitation and Evangelization, **Jan. 2012**
- An Educational and Formational Parish: Initiation and Faith Formation, **Feb. 2012**
- A Parish Responsive to Others: Pastoral Outreach and Service for Justice, **Mar. 2012**
- An Effectively Administered Parish: Leadership and Care of Facilities, Personnel and Finances, **Apr. 2012**
- A Gifted Parish, Living Responsibly: Stewardship Formation and Practice, **May 2012**

Agenda for Meetings

- Opening Prayer
 - Focus
 - Reflection
 - Discussion on Parish Survey
 - Action Steps
 - Next Meeting
 - Closing Prayer
-
- (At the first meeting, establish the dates for the rest of the meetings)

A Worshiping Parish: Prayer and Sacramental Life

October 2011 - Meeting Agenda - #1



Opening Prayer

- **Read and Reflect:** Acts 2:42-47
"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers."
- **Share:** In what ways does our parish prayer life strengthen our community?

Focus

- To look at the quality of our prayer, worship and sacramental life and then develop action steps to deepen them.

Reflection

- **Sacrosanctum concilium, Constitution On the Sacred Liturgy, SC #2**
"The Liturgy is . . . the outstanding means by which the faithful can express in their lives, and manifest to others, the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church."
- **Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1074, SC #10**
"The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the font from which all her power flows. It is therefore the privileged place for catechizing the People of God."

Look at Statistics - (www.archphila.org click parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010)

- **Report to Pastor:** page 1- section 2, page 2- section 1 **Annual Pastoral Report:** #36-73, 150

Discussion on Parish Survey - A Worshiping Parish

Each person should have read and filled this out prior to the meeting.

Using the Parish Survey as the guide, reflect on these questions:

- What are our parish strengths?
- What are our parish weaknesses/challenges?
- What agreed upon priorities will we address?

Action Steps (answer these questions for **EACH** priority)

- What specific action will we take to address this priority?
- Who will be responsible?
- How and when will it be achieved?
- How and when will it be evaluated?

Next meeting

- Date, time, place and give assignments

Closing Prayer—Call to Conversion and Holiness

Parish Survey - 1 A Worshiping Parish - Prayer and Sacramental Life		October 2011	<i>Does it happen?</i>	<i>*How well?</i>	<i>**How important is it?</i>
			<i>Y/N</i>		
1	Parishioners recognize worship as the center and focal point from which everything else follows.				
2	Sunday Mass is celebrated with reverence in a manner faithful to the liturgical norms and Archdiocesan guidelines.				
3	The number of Sunday Masses is in proportion to the number of parishioners, and the size of the worship space is appropriate.				
4	Sunday Mass is offered in the language(s) spoken by parishioners.				
5	In accord with liturgical norms, training is provided by the parish or through Archdiocesan programs for liturgical ministers, including lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, music ministers (directors, choirs, cantors, musicians), altar servers, hospitality/ushears, etc.				
6	Liturgical ministers fully represent the parish community.				
7	Regular opportunities for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation are provided in accord with liturgical norms, Archdiocesan guidelines, as well as the needs and convenience of the parishioners.				
8	Catechesis and celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism are provided according to Archdiocesan guidelines.				
9	Effective preparation for and celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage are provided according to Church Law and Archdiocesan guidelines.				
10	Catechesis and celebration of First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are provided in accord with Archdiocesan guidelines.				
11	Clergy and laity plan and participate together in the celebration of the Sacraments, devoting appropriate resources to these activities.				
12	There is a properly formed worship committee to assist in the coordination and implementation of the parish's liturgical life with appropriate catechesis of all.				
13	Homilies are provided at all Sunday and holy day Masses (and even at weekday Masses) following the norms for preaching.				
14	Liturgies are scheduled at a variety of times to meet the many needs of parishioners, taking into consideration Mass times of neighboring parishes.				
15	Forty Hours Devotions are celebrated annually.				
16	Frequent and regular opportunities are offered for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.				
17	Regular celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours is provided as part of the prayer life of the parish.				
18	Effective pastoral care for the Catholic Funeral Rites is provided according to the Order of Christian Funerals.				
19	Effective and ongoing ministry to bereaved persons is provided through a structured program or more informal care, including meeting with the bereaved family to plan funeral liturgies and burial.				
20	Sufficient devotional and culturally sensitive services are provided to meet the needs of all parishioners.				
21	The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is celebrated, individually and communally, as pastoral need demands.				
22	Regular celebration of the Sacraments is provided for parishioners who are homebound.				
23	The liturgical rites of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) are celebrated to initiate adults and children of catechetical age, and to receive baptized Christians into full Communion.				
24	Accurate parish sacramental registers and record of Mass Intentions are maintained in accord with Church law and Archdiocesan guidelines.				

* 3 - well 2 - adequate 1 - needs attention

** 3 - essential 2 - important 1 - not important now

A Welcoming and Caring Parish: Family and Community

November 2011 - Meeting Agenda - #2



Opening Prayer

- **Read and Reflect:** Acts 4: 32-35
"There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need."
- **Share:** In what ways does our parish care for those in need?

Focus

- To evaluate the witness of being a welcoming and caring community and then develop action steps to deepen them.

Reflection

- **Ecclesia in America #41**
"The parish is a privileged place where the faithful concretely experience the Church. Parishes are called to be welcoming and fraternal, ... attentive to the cultural diversity of the people, open to pastoral projects which go beyond the individual parish...The parish can be the source of great hope. It can gather people in community, assist family life, overcome the sense of anonymity, welcome people and help them to be involved in their neighborhood and in society."
- **General Directory for Catechesis, USCCB, #257**
"The parish is called to be a fraternal and welcoming family where Christians become aware of being the people of God."

Look at Statistics - (www.archphila.org click parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010)

- **Report to Pastor:** page 1- section 1, U.S. Census #1, **Annual Pastoral Report:** #74-76. 84-85, 145-150

Discussion on Parish Survey - A Welcoming and Caring Parish

Each person should have read and filled this out prior to the meeting.

Using the Parish Survey as the guide, reflect on these questions:

- What are our parish strengths?
- What are our parish weaknesses/challenges?
- What agreed upon priorities will we address?

Action Steps (answer these questions for **EACH** priority)

- What specific action will we take to address this priority?
- Who will be responsible?
- How and when will it be achieved?
- How and when will it be evaluated?

Next meeting

- Date, time, place and give assignments

Closing Prayer—Call to Conversion and Holiness

Parish Survey - 2

November 2011

A Welcoming and Caring Parish - Family and Community

*Does it
happen?*

**How
well?*

*** How
important is
it?*

Y/N

- | | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | Parishioners create and nourish a strong sense of community. Members identify themselves with the Catholic Church and with their parish community and seek to improve it. | | | |
| 2 | The parish enables and forms lay leaders, providing for collaborative ministry. Lay involvement and leadership reflects the makeup of the parish. (young and old, men and women, races, nationalities, language groups). | | | |
| 3 | The parish provides pastoral care for families through programs on parenting, ministry to divorced, separated, persons in troubled marriages and families and the bereaved. | | | |
| 4 | The parish provides formation opportunities for families which promote family prayer, catechesis in the home, participation in the sacramental life of the Church as well as the understanding and witness of Catholic faith and morals. | | | |
| 5 | The parish promotes a sense of belonging and an atmosphere of hospitality. | | | |
| 6 | Greeters welcome visitors and new parishioners at Mass. | | | |
| 7 | Parish organizes ongoing home visitation. | | | |
| 8 | Parish hosts frequent hospitality gatherings after Mass and annual social events. | | | |
| 9 | The parish rectory staff (full-time and part-time) are welcoming and considerate in their interaction with others. | | | |
| 10 | The parish provides regular and effective communication with parishioners, through Sunday bulletins, information packets, newsletters, emails and web site. | | | |
| 11 | Parish provides some form of child care, as well as a Children's Liturgy of the Word, during some Sunday Masses and other significant functions. | | | |
| 12 | The parish provides regular and effective ministry to persons who are elderly, sick or homebound. | | | |
| 13 | The parish makes a special effort to include single parents, divorced persons and others with unique needs. | | | |
| 14 | The parish provides welcomes and provides vibrant spiritual, liturgical, social and cultural opportunities for the various ethnic groups, in particular recent immigrants to this country. | | | |
| 15 | The parish provides access and effective ministry to persons with disabilities, including them in all aspects of parish life. | | | |

* 3 - well 2 - adequate 1 - needs attention

** 3 - essential 2 - important 1 - not important now

A Witnessing and Proclaiming Parish: Invitation and Evangelization

January 2012 - Meeting Agenda - #3



Opening Prayer

- **Read and Reflect:** Matthew 28: 18-20
"Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations . . . Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."
- **Share:** In what ways does our parish witness and proclaim the faith?

Focus

- To evaluate the effectiveness of being a witnessing and proclaiming parish and then develop action steps.

Reflection

- **Go and Make Disciples #10**
"Evangelization is bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself."
- **Code of Canon Law #528**
"The pastor...is to make every effort with the aid of the Christian faithful, to bring the gospel message also to those who have ceased practicing their religion or who do not profess the true faith."

Look at Statistics - (www.archphila.org click parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010)

- **Report to Pastor:** page 1 – section 3, U.S. Census #2,3 **Annual Pastoral Report:** #103-123

Discussion on Parish Survey - A Witnessing and Proclaiming Parish

Each person should have read and filled this out prior to the meeting.

Using the Parish Survey as the guide, reflect on these questions:

- What are our parish strengths?
- What are our parish weaknesses/challenges?
- What agreed upon priorities will we address?

Action Steps (answer these questions for EACH priority)

- What specific action will we take to address this priority?
- Who will be responsible?
- How and when will it be achieved?
- How and when will it be evaluated?

Next meeting

- Date, time, place and give assignments

Closing Prayer—Call to Conversion and Holiness

Parish Survey - 3 A Witnessing and Proclaiming Parish - Invitation and Evangelization		January 2012	Does it happen?	*How well?	** How important is it?
		Y/N			
1	The parish has active programs of evangelization to share the Catholic faith and mission and appropriate resources are made available to support their efforts.				
2	The parish provides opportunities for those not part of the Catholic community to learn about the Catholic Faith and participate in the R.C.I.A.				
3	The parish provides, as far as possible and as needed, effective programs for parish spiritual renewal.				
4	The parish provides and promotes opportunities for a variety of prayer experiences, such as charismatic prayer, Faith-sharing.				
5	The Pastor actively works towards the convalidation of marriages and pastorally provides tactful and sensitive contacts with cohabiting couples to assist them in their situation and faith.				
6	Through various programs, the parish provides outreach to persons who have become estranged from the Church. (Catholics Returning Home, Landings)				
7	The parish provides opportunities for vocational discernment, as well as regular and structured approaches to prayer for vocations, including priesthood, permanent diaconate, consecrated life, married and single-life.				
8	The parish provides and advertises retreat and faith formation opportunities for all persons, ages and constituency groups, as well as regular Days of Prayer and spiritual exercises for parish staff and all parishioners.				
9	The parish provides education/formation opportunities for the laity, responsive to the primary and distinctive character of their vocation. This secular character is expressed in the Church's call of the laity to bring the Gospel to the structures of society: family life, political life, workplace, science and the arts, mass media.				
10	The parish provides outreach to young adults in all faith-related areas.				
11	The parish assures opportunities for parishioners to develop a missionary spirit and support of missionary efforts.				
12	There is a designated parish evangelization contact person.				
13	The pastor appoints a parish ecumenical and interreligious representative who is charged with promoting and planning ecumenical activity.				

* 3 - well 2 - adequate 1 - needs attention

** 3 - essential 2 - important 1 - not important now

An Educational and Formational Parish

Initiation and Faith Formation

February 2012 - Meeting Agenda - #4



Opening Prayer

- **Read and Reflect:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9
"Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them at your wrist as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates."
- **Share:** In what ways does our parish assist all members to grow in their faith?

Focus

- To evaluate the effectiveness of sharing the faith at all age levels and then develop action steps.

Reflection

- **The General Directory for Catechesis #257**
"The parish is, without doubt, the most important locus in which the Christian community is formed and expressed. The parish is also the usual place in which the faith is born and in which it grows. ...the prime mover and pre-eminent place for catechesis."
- **National Directory for Catechesis #22**
"Catechesis develops a deeper understanding of the mystery of Christ, encourages more profound incorporation into the Church, and nourishes Christian living."

Look at Statistics - (www.archphila.org click parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010)

- **Report to Pastor:** page 1-section 3, U.S. Census #3, School Report page 1, 2,
Annual Pastoral Report:#103-130

Discussion on Parish Survey - An Educational And Formational Parish

Each person should have read and filled this out prior to the meeting.

Using the Parish Survey as the guide, reflect on these questions:

- What are our parish strengths?
- What are our parish weaknesses/challenges?
- What agreed upon priorities will we address?

Action Steps (answer these questions for **EACH** priority)

- What specific action will we take to address this priority?
- Who will be responsible?
- How and when will it be achieved?
- How and when will it be evaluated?

Next meeting

- Date, time, place and give assignments

Closing Prayer—Call to Conversion and Holiness

Parish Survey - 4		February 2012	Does it happen?	*How well?	** How important is it?
		Y/N			
1	Parishioners commit to the religious education and spiritual formation of adults and children to bring them to a deeper understanding of Church doctrine, conversion to Christ and personal witness to the Faith. Appropriate resources are then made available to support their efforts.				
2	In support of parents, who have the God-given responsibility as the first teachers in the faith, the parish provides a parish elementary school and/or a Parish Religious Education Program.				
3	The parish school has a strong Catholic identity demonstrated by a Catholic faculty committed to Catholic life and education, the celebration of Sacraments and devotions, service to the needy, a fully developed religion program with qualified teachers, and an organized evangelization program when serving a significantly non-Catholic community.				
4	The parish incorporates fully the parish school into parish life. Parish subsidy to the school is not an excessive percentage of the school's entire budget, and the parish does not have an excessive percentage of its entire income directed towards the school operating budget.				
5	School teachers are properly degreed, qualified, competent and remunerated.				
6	The proper formation for all parochial school teachers and catechists is provided, according to Archdiocesan guidelines.				
7	The parish provides an effective program of religious education and formation for all children and youth, including immigrants, those whose primary language is not English, children with disabilities, as well as members of ethnic communities, in grades K through 12.				
8	An adequate number of catechists and support personnel, properly educated, for the program of religious education is provided.				
9	The parish provides programs of sacramental preparation for candidates, sponsors of the candidates, and for parents of candidates, including those whose primary language is not English.				
10	The parish has a professionally degreed, qualified director/coordinator for the program of religious education.				
11	Ongoing Faith formation for all members of the parish is sensitive to the cultural and linguistic needs of parishioners.				
12	There is a Parish Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation.				
13	There is initial and ongoing formation of catechists for adults.				
14	The implementation of R.C.I.A. is coordinated by a parish leader and supported by an R.C.I.A. team.				
15	The parish provides regular and effective ministry to single people.				
16	The parish provides regular and effective ministry to youth and young adults which will foster their full participation within the larger parish community.				
17	There is a Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministry.				

* 3 - well 2 - adequate 1 - needs attention ** 3 - essential 2 - important 1 - not important now

A Parish Responsive to Others: Pastoral Outreach and Service for Justice

March 2012 - Meeting Agenda - #5



Opening Prayer

- **Read and Reflect:** Matthew 25: 35-40
"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? . . . Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."
- **Share:** In what ways does our parish reflect this Scripture passage?

Focus

- To evaluate the level of outreach and service to others and then develop action steps.

Reflection

- **Pope Benedict XVI, Papal Address May 26, 2009**
"To live charity is a primary form of mission. The word proclaimed becomes visible when it is incarnated in acts of solidarity and sharing and in gestures that concretely demonstrate the face of Christ, the true friend of humanity."
- **Go and Make Disciples #18**
"The fruit of evangelization is changed lives and a changed world—holiness and justice, spirituality and peace."

Look at Statistics - (www.archphila.org click parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010)

- **Report to Pastor:** U.S. Census #4, **Annual Pastoral Report:** #150

Discussion on Parish Survey - A Parish Responsive to Others

Each person should have read and filled this out prior to the meeting.

Using the Parish Survey as the guide, reflect on these questions:

- What are our parish strengths?
- What are our parish weaknesses/challenges?
- What agreed upon priorities will we address?

Action Steps (answer these questions for **EACH** priority)

- What specific action will we take to address this priority?
- Who will be responsible?
- How and when will it be achieved?
- How and when will it be evaluated?

Next meeting

- Date, time, place and give assignments

Closing Prayer—Call to Conversion and Holiness

Parish Survey - 5		March 2012	<i>Does it happen?</i>	<i>*How well?</i>	<i>** How important is it?</i>
		Y/N			
1	The parish demonstrates charity to the poor (the homeless, recent immigrants and those at the margins of society) in keeping with the Church's preferential option for the poor.				
2	The parish identifies ways of working for peace and justice.				
3	The parish engages in dialogue, prayer and service with other religious denominations and their leadership.				
4	The parish raises the consciousness of parishioners regarding Catholic teaching on life issues, racial, ethnic and cultural issues, issues of peace and justice, leading to appropriate action in the parish and neighborhood.				
5	A designated portion of parish resources is given for service of the poor.				
6	The parish shares resources with local parishes and/or suburb-to-city parishes where appropriate.				
7	The parish provides opportunities for food and clothing collections.				
8	The parish encourages participation in all aspects of civic affairs, giving witness to Gospel values.				
9	Ministry, including referral services, is provided directly or in collaboration with other agencies, to persons with special needs.				
10	The parish participates in all archdiocesan special collections for the poor.				
* 3 - well 2 - adequate 1 - needs attention		** 3 - essential 2 - important 1 - not important now			

An Effectively Administered Parish: Leadership and Care of Facilities, Personnel and Finances

April 2012 - Meeting Agenda - #6



Opening Prayer

- **Read and Reflect:** Corinthians 12: 7-11
"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. . . . But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes."
- **Share:** How do the gifts of the community make us a more vibrant parish?

Focus

- To evaluate the various levels of leadership, the use of our structures and the use of our finances and then develop action steps.

Reflection

- **Pope John Paul II, On the Formation of Priests In the Circumstances of the Present Day #38**
"Today, the pressing pastoral task of the new evangelization calls for the involvement of the entire People of God, and requires a new fervor, new methods and a new expression for the announcing and witnessing of the Gospel. This task demands priests who are deeply and fully immersed in the mystery of Christ and capable of embodying a new style of pastoral life, marked by a profound communion with the pope, bishops and priests, and a fruitful cooperation with the lay faithful, always respecting and fostering the different roles, charisms and ministries present within the ecclesial community."
- **Ecclesia in America #41**
"Parishes are called to be open to the full range of charisms, services and ministries, organized in a communal and responsible way . . . attentive to the cultural diversity of the people."

Look at Statistics - (www.archphila.org click parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010)

- **Report to Pastor:** page 1- section1, U.S. Census, **Annual Pastoral Report:** #86-102, **Annual Parish Financial Report, Facilities (Building) Evaluation, Current Church and School Operating Budget**

Discussion on Parish Survey - An Effectively Administered Parish

Each person should have read and filled this out prior to the meeting.

Using the Parish Survey as the guide, reflect on these questions:

- What are our parish strengths?
- What are our parish weaknesses/challenges?
- What agreed upon priorities will we address?

Action Steps (answer these questions for **EACH** priority)

- What specific action will we take to address this priority?
- Who will be responsible?
- How and when will it be achieved?
- How and when will it be evaluated?

Next meeting

- Date, time, place and give assignments

Closing Prayer—Call to Conversion and Holiness

Parish Survey - 6

April 2012

An Effectively Administered Parish - Leadership and Care of Facilities, Personnel and Finances

Does it happen?	*How well?	** How important is it?
-----------------	------------	-------------------------

Y/N

1	Parishioners recognize and accept their rights and responsibilities as baptized Catholics to fully participate in the life of the Church.		
2	Pastoral leadership encourages full collaboration among parishioners assisting them to take an active, responsible role in the life of the parish.		
3	The parish has a sufficient number of members in their active years who participate productively in parish ministry.		
4	The number of parish staff and parishioner volunteers, as well as their training and sense of mission, are adequate to carry out all of the work of the parish.		
5	The parish has secure space and files for all official documents.		
6	Worship space is of adequate size, sacred design and environment to celebrate the rites of the Church and to accommodate the usual number of worshipers according to the Church's liturgical norms.		
7	Parish has facilities adequate to house the priests and religious of the parish.		
8	Parish has space adequate to engage in the education and formation of members.		
9	Parish has space (such as a center, hall or auditorium) adequate for parishioner's social needs.		
10	Parish has space adequate for staff work areas, meetings, and larger gatherings of persons.		
11	Parish has office equipment/supplies (i.e., computers, copiers and fax machines) adequate to function effectively.		
12	Parish office and other support services are staffed adequately to operate effectively.		
13	Parish custodial service is staffed adequately to care and maintain all the property and buildings.		
14	Parish has adequate rectory staff (housekeeper, cook) to allow the priests to be attentive to pastoral responsibilities.		
15	Parish has a Parish Business Manager to handle administrative and plant concerns, to allow priests to give sufficient time to pastoral responsibilities.		
16	Parish is in compliance with all governmental laws and regulations as well as Archdiocesan policies and procedures related to personnel, both salaried and volunteer, including appropriate background checks.		
17	Parish is in compliance with all governmental laws and regulations as well as Archdiocesan policies and procedures related to proper financial reporting and adherence to proper accounting standards.		
18	Parish has regular and effective communication among staff (staff meetings) to ensure that accurate information is shared in a timely manner and promote cooperation and collaboration among staff.		
19	Parishioners are able to contact clergy and other staff throughout the normal day and evening hours, and in case of an emergency.		
20	Parish has an active and effective Parish Pastoral Council, which assists the pastor in developing, implementing and regularly reviewing the Parish Pastoral Plan.		
21	Parish has an active and effective Parish Finance Council, constituted according to Canon Law and archdiocesan guidelines.		
22	Parish has a developed plan to achieve and maintain financial stability. If applicable, a Debt Service Plan is formulated.		
23	Parish has an effective program of sacrificial giving (stewardship).		
24	Parish has a development or endowment committee to assist in parish fundraising needs.		
25	Parish meets financial obligations including those to Archdiocese (assessments, pension funds, health care plans, special collections).		
26	Parish has an annual balanced operational budget.		
27	Parish provides annual parish financial report to Archdiocese and parishioners.		
28	Parish has a current accurate census of parish membership (computer-based Church software maintained from an Annual Parish Census/Visitation).		
29	Parish takes active responsibility, as appropriate, in implementing the various goals of the Area Pastoral Plan.		

* 3 - well 2 - adequate 1 - needs attention

** 3 - essential 2 - important 1 - not important now

A Gifted Parish, Living Responsibly: Stewardship Formation and Practice

May 2012 - Meeting Agenda - #7



Opening Prayer

- **Read and Reflect:** Sirach 35: 7-9
"In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance, and pay your tithes in a spirit of joy. Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously according to your means."
- **Share:** In what ways does a generous heart receive back a hundredfold.

Focus

- To evaluate the strength of our parish stewardship and then develop action steps.

Reflection

- **Code of Canon Law #222**
"The Christian faithful are obliged to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, for apostolic works and works of charity and for the decent sustenance of ministers."
- **Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, USCCB**
"As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord."

Look at Statistics - (www.archphila.org click parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010)

- **Report to Pastor:** page 1- section1, **Annual Pastoral Report:** #130, 145,
Annual Parish Financial Report, Facilities (Building) Evaluation (available at 215-587-3560)

Discussion on Parish Survey - A Gifted Parish, Living Responsibly

Each person should have read and filled this out prior to the meeting.

Using the Parish Survey as the guide, reflect on these questions:

- What are our parish strengths?
- What are our parish weaknesses/challenges?
- What agreed upon priorities will we address?

Action Steps (answer these questions for **EACH** priority)

- What specific action will we take to address this priority?
- Who will be responsible?
- How and when will it be achieved?
- How and when will it be evaluated?

Next meeting

- Date, time, place and give assignments

Closing Prayer—Call to Conversion and Holiness

Parish Survey - 7		May 2012	<i>Does it happen?</i>	<i>*How well?</i>	<i>** How important is it?</i>
			Y / N		
1	Parishioners recognize the parish itself as a gift from God having sufficient resources to support the mission of the parish.				
2	The pastor, staff and parishioners are not overly preoccupied with temporal affairs at the expense of the pastoral ministry.				
3	Parishioners are sufficiently willing and able to support the parish with their time, talent and treasure.				
4	Parishioners and staff are willing to collaborate with local parishes to meet the needs of the community more effectively.				
5	Parish stresses prayer and full participation in the sacramental life of the Church as absolutely fundamental to nurturing the parish's pastoral plan and vision.				
6	Parish has strong pastoral leadership and support for Stewardship as described in the United States Bishop's Pastoral, <i>Stewardship: A Disciple's Response</i> . Pastors who practice Stewardship in their own lives, create interest, by example, among the parishioners.				
7	Parish treats its employees justly regarding salaries and benefits.				
8	Parish has a functioning Stewardship Committee with the ability to access both local and national Stewardship Resources.				
9	Parishioners experience growth in faith and conversion in Christ through participation in a vibrant parish community.				
10	Parish provides Stewardship formation for parishioners of all ages.				
11	Pastor challenges parishioners to increase personal sacrifices of time, talent and treasure within the parish and the greater community.				
12	Parish conducts annual commitment renewals of time, talent and treasure to the parish.				
13	Pastor seeks and welcomes new lay leaders for service within the parish and provides appropriate formation for them.				
14	Pastor informs parishioners of the good works being done through the generosity of their commitments.				
15	Parish gives a designated portion of its resources for the service of the poor.				
* 3 - well 2 - adequate 1 - needs attention			** 3 - essential 2 - important 1 - not important now		

Notes and Assignments



A Worshiping Parish _____

A Welcoming and Caring Parish _____

A Witnessing and Proclaiming Parish _____

An Educational and Formational Parish _____

Notes and Assignments



A Parish Responsive to Others _____

An Effectively Administered Parish _____

A Gifted Parish, Living Responsible _____



60th Anniversary of Ordination of Pope Benedict XVI

In honor of Our Holy Father's 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on June 29, 2011, the Church throughout the world has been invited to observe this significant occasion with a designated period of Eucharistic adoration. The sanctification of priests and an increase in priestly vocations are the proposed intentions for this period of prayer.

Listed below are parishes with chapels of perpetual adoration. All the priests and faithful are asked to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament at one of these sites or another one of your choosing, from Monday, June 27 through Friday, July 1, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

BUCKS COUNTY

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Yardley	St. John Bosco, Hatboro
Our Lady of Fatima, Bensalem	St. Bede the Venerable, Holland
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Doylestown	
Convent of Divine Love (Pink Sisters), Philadelphia	

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY

St. Matthew, Conshohocken	Visitation B.V.M., Trooper
Queen of Peace, Ardley	St. Catherine of Siena, Horsham
St. Stanislaus, Lansdale	Presentation B.V.M., Cheltenham
Convent of Divine Love (Pink Sisters), Philadelphia	

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CHESTER COUNTY

St. Cecilia, Coatesville	SS. Simon and Jude, West Chester
St. Isaac Jogues, Wayne	
Convent of Divine Love (Pink Sisters), Philadelphia	

60th Anniversary of Ordination of Pope Benedict XVI

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PHILADELPHIA NORTH

St. Christopher, Philadelphia	St. William, Philadelphia
St. Dominic, Philadelphia	
Convent of Divine Love (Pink Sisters), Philadelphia	

60th Anniversary of Ordination of Pope Benedict XVI

In honor of Our Holy Father's 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on June 29, 2011, the Church throughout the world has been invited to observe this significant occasion with a designated period of Eucharistic adoration. The sanctification of priests and an increase in priestly vocations are the proposed intentions for this period of prayer.

Listed below are parishes with chapels of perpetual adoration. All the priests and faithful are asked to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament at one of these sites or another one of your choosing, from Monday, June 27 through Friday, July 1, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

DELAWARE COUNTY

St. Anastasia, Newtown Square	St. Mary Magdalen, Media
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Morton	Nativity, B.V.M., Media
Convent of Divine Love (Pink Sisters), Philadelphia	

60th Anniversary of Ordination of Pope Benedict XVI

In honor of Our Holy Father's 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on June 29, 2011, the Church throughout the world has been invited to observe this significant occasion with a designated period of Eucharistic adoration. The sanctification of priests and an increase in priestly vocations are the proposed intentions for this period of prayer.

Listed below are parishes with chapels of perpetual adoration. All the priests and faithful are asked to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament at one of these sites or another one of your choosing, from Monday, June 27 through Friday, July 1, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

PHILADELPHIA SOUTH

St. Peter the Apostle, Philadelphia	St. Thomas Aquinas, Philadelphia
St. Rita of Cascia, Philadelphia	Stella Maris, Philadelphia
St. Francis de Sales, Philadelphia	
Convent of Divine Love (Pink Sisters), Philadelphia	



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

July 2, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In his most recent encyclical *Caritas in veritate* (Charity in Truth), Pope Benedict XVI reiterated what he calls an important truth set forth by his predecessor Pope Paul VI in his encyclical *Populorum Progressio* (On the Development of Peoples): "...the whole Church, in all her being and acting – when she proclaims, when she celebrates, when she performs works of charity – is engaged in promoting human development." Our Holy Father goes on to say that "...integral human development is primarily a vocation, and therefore it involves a free assumption of responsibility in solidarity on the part of everyone."

For nearly 40 years, the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** has concretely demonstrated the Catholic Church's solidarity with the poor in our country by funding local community organizations that promote integral human development. These groups actively engage the poor to participate in organized efforts that address the root causes of poverty. Access to affordable housing and health care, quality education for children, and vocational training for the unemployed are among the goals of funded organizations.

Each year the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops sponsors a nationwide collection in support of the Catholic Church's longstanding efforts to reduce poverty by addressing its root causes. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the annual collection will take place on the weekend of **July 10-11, 2010**. Funds collected support anti-poverty projects across the country and in the communities and neighborhoods of our own region, providing the means for our less fortunate brothers and sisters to become agents of their own progress and human development. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia exercises due diligence in carefully reviewing all applications for grants from community organizations in our region, ensuring that the mission and goals of prospective grant recipients are consistent with the Catholic Church's social and moral teaching. The activities of funded organizations are closely monitored for ongoing compliance.

Nearly 40 million Americans are now living in poverty, and in these challenging economic times that have adversely impacted so many people, the effect on the poor is even more dramatic. Through your contribution to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, you assist your neighbors near and far in breaking the cycle of poverty and achieving the dignity of self-reliance in their pursuit of a better future. On their behalf, I express my appreciation and ask God's blessing upon you for your generous response to this appeal.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(For more information, visit the Catholic Campaign for Human Development section on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website at: www.usccb.org/cchd)

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of July 3 and 4; the collection is taken up the following weekend of July 10 and 11. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

July 1, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his first encyclical entitled *Deus caritas est (God is Love)*, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that “the Church is God's family in the world. In this family no one ought to go without the necessities of life.”

More than thirty-six million Americans live below the poverty line—struggling to better their lives and meet the needs of themselves and their families. Our faith challenges us to end the social injustices which contribute to the presence of poverty in our world.

The **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)** was established to positively impact the lives of the poor in the United States by standing with low-income people, helping them create permanent solutions to poverty in their communities. Real, sustainable change is happening because of the support of ordinary, Catholic people across the country.

CCHD's efforts are supported almost entirely through an annual parish Collection, which will be taken up in the parishes of this Archdiocese on **July 12 - 13, 2008**. Of the donations received, 75% are forwarded to the CCHD national office to support anti-poverty projects across the country. Initiatives benefitting our local communities remain in the Archdiocese and account for the other 25% of funds received. This annual collection also raises consciousness about poverty and the Church's social mission.

CCHD is committed to helping people find permanent solutions to the problem of poverty, but it cannot do this alone. Please join in solidarity with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to put an end to poverty in our nation through your generous support of this appeal. May God bless you for your generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(For additional information on poverty in the United States, or the programs of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, you may wish to consult the following websites: www.usccb.org/cchd and www.povertyusa.org)

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of **July 5 and July 6** ; the collection is taken up the following weekend of **July 12 and 13**. Collection remittal should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

June 30, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *Deus caritas est*, our Holy Father wrote that "within the community of believers there can never be room for a poverty that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life."

The lives and futures of 37 million Americans who are living in poverty are at stake. For nearly forty years, the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** has stood with poor and low-income peoples, helping to create permanent solutions to poverty. One by one people are joining local community groups to break the cycle of poverty – and Catholics across our country are part of that change.

In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the annual collection to support this domestic anti-poverty program of the Church will take place on the weekend of July 11-12, 2009. Through the collection, contributions of the faithful become tools of self-reliance, self-sufficiency and self-determination as anti-poverty projects are implemented across the country and in the communities and neighborhoods of our own Archdiocese. The annual collection also raises consciousness about poverty and the Church's social mission.

The *Catholic Campaign for Human Development* is committed to helping people find permanent solutions to the problem of domestic poverty. On behalf of literally thousands of citizens and neighbors whose lives will be offered hope through this program, I thank you for your response to this appeal.

May God bless you for your generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(For additional information on poverty in the United States, or the programs of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, you may wish to consult the following websites: www.usccb.org/cchd and www.povertyusa.org)

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of July 4 & 5; the collection is taken up the following weekend of July 11 and 12. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

July 2, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During his 1987 pastoral visit to the United States, beloved Pope John Paul II of happy memory stated: “Jesus Christ was born poor, lived poor and died poor. He loved the poor. In his kingdom, the poor have a special place. The Church cannot be any different.” Responding with love to the poor and assisting them, as best we are able, is a fundamental dimension of what it means to truly be Christ’s Church.

Since 1969, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), under the direct sponsorship of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, has worked for justice by addressing the root causes of poverty in America. Through promotion and support of community organizations composed primarily of low-income people, CCHD expresses in word and deed the Catholic Church’s unwavering solidarity with those who live on the margins of our society. Organizations receiving CCHD funding actively engage the poor to participate in local self-help efforts aimed at securing affordable housing and health care for families, quality day care and education for children, and job training and placement assistance for the unemployed and underemployed.

Each year the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops sponsors a nationwide collection in support of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the annual collection will occur on the weekend of July 9-10, 2011. Some of the funds collected support national projects, with another portion assisting worthwhile organizations in the communities and neighborhoods of our own region. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia exercises due diligence in carefully reviewing all applications for grants from community organizations in our region, ensuring that the mission, goals, activities, and associations of prospective grant recipients are consistent with the Catholic Church’s social and moral teaching.

Over 43 million Americans now live below the poverty line, many of them children. No one deserves to be subject to the hunger, danger, and insecurity that daily afflict so many of our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Your support of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development makes you a partner with your neighbor near and far in their struggle to break the cycle of poverty and realize a better, more dignified future for them and their children. On their behalf, I express my heartfelt appreciation for your generous response to this appeal.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of July 2 and 3, 2011; the collection is taken up the following weekend of July 9 and 10, 2011. Collection remittal should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

February 19, 2009

Dear Faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia,

As the Archdiocese of Philadelphia enters its third century of serving the people of God, it is with gratitude that I reflect on the profound faith, vision and generosity of the Catholics who have preceded us. Along with the blessings of parishes, schools and institutions that we enjoy today, comes the responsibility for us to pass on to future generations all that we have received. Last year, we recommitted ourselves as a Catholic community to serving God and neighbor as we celebrated our Bicentennial as a Diocese. Taking the opportunity that the year-long Jubilee celebration presented, I invited a group of priests and lay people to assist me in identifying the needs of our Archdiocese now and in the years to come. The fruit of our reflection is a concerted effort to meet the challenges of the Church at this historic time.

With confidence, I am pleased to announce HERITAGE OF FAITH ~ VISION OF HOPE, a capital and endowment campaign that will support the charitable, educational and pastoral needs of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Our aim is high: minimally \$200 million, but our needs are great. These monies will be deposited into a separately incorporated 501 (c)(3) charitable fund to be used exclusively to meet six goals: (1) to revitalize and renew parish life as the primary place in which we publicly live our faith, (2) to enable access to a high-quality Catholic education for many more of God's children, (3) to renovate and restore the historic treasure that is the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, (4) to invest in priestly formation and campus infrastructure at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, (5) to ensure a dignified retirement and health care for retired priests, and (6) to respect the dignity and meet the basic needs of people in our region by providing vital human services.

Certainly the economic realities of the present are a cause of anxiety for all of us. Our nation faces much uncertainty and some would argue that now is not the time to begin an endeavor such as this campaign. The needs of the Archdiocese, however, cannot wait for the future. They require our response today. I am certain that this is the right response. I am very pleased to report that the early results of HERITAGE OF FAITH ~ VISION OF HOPE are truly remarkable. The pilot phase, just concluded, was nothing short of extraordinary. Twelve parishes raised \$9.5 million, exceeding their collective goal by \$2 million. The campaign is currently underway in more than 50 parishes, and in the coming 16 months, each of our 269 parishes and missions will participate. To date, HERITAGE OF FAITH ~ VISION OF HOPE has received more than \$40 million in gifts and pledges. This inspiring display of generosity is a testament to the leadership of our priests, the commitment of campaign volunteers and the extraordinary charity of more than 2,500 donors.

I invite you to join me by making a sacrificial commitment to HERITAGE OF FAITH ~ VISION OF HOPE and am deeply grateful to those who have already done so. Our combined efforts will make a lasting contribution to the future of the Church of Philadelphia and help the Archdiocese live out the Bicentennial theme: Serving the People of God in the beginning, now and always. For two hundred years our Heavenly Father blessed the Church of Philadelphia. Faith-filled people have humbly sacrificed their time, talent and treasure in building a community of believers with Jesus Christ as our foundation and cornerstone. We look to the future with grateful hearts, united in prayerful solidarity for this historic endeavor.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the patronage of our Blessed Mother, Saint John Neumann and Saint Katharine Drexel, may the Kingdom of God continue to grow within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Through the generosity of many, may our HERITAGE OF FAITH ~ VISION OF HOPE campaign be successful. May the Lord instill in us the desire to share our Heritage of Faith and invite others to embrace our Vision of Hope.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Card. Rigali".

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

January 31, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Isaiah the Prophet heard the Lord's voice saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Isaiah responded, "Here I am, send me." The apostles followed the Lord's call and were sent to invite others into the Lord's Vineyard. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." The Lord's promise to Isaiah, to the apostles, to Peter and to all of us has been fulfilled in the ministry of the priests who have served our Archdiocese so faithfully.

Many of the priests who responded to the Lord's call and labored in the vineyard are now retired and some are physically ill. They are being wonderfully cared for at Villa Saint Joseph, Regina Coeli Residence, Saint Francis Country House, and a number of other Catholic Health Care facilities throughout our Archdiocese. Their care and welfare, so well deserved after serving the Lord generously through the years, is the responsibility of us all. I thank God for the goodness and generosity of the faithful in the past and in this Year of the Priest, seek your assistance to ensure that our elderly priests are well cared for now and in the future.

Once again, I call upon your commitment to these faithful servants through our **Annual Collection for the Care of Aging and Infirm Priests** of Philadelphia. The collection will be taken up in all parishes throughout the Archdiocese next weekend, **February 6 and 7, 2010**. I ask your generous financial support and your continued love and prayers for all our retired and infirm priests who in their own way are still responding to God's call to serve his holy people through their priestly ministry of prayer, suffering and selfless love.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of January 30 and 31, 2010; the collection is taken up the following weekend of February 6 and 7, 2010. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

January 9, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual **Catholic Relief Services Collection** challenges American Catholics to see "Jesus in disguise" in the faces of our brothers and sisters in drought-affected Ethiopia, families in storm-affected communities such as Haiti, refugees in Lebanon and the hundreds of thousands of families affected by the global food crisis in many parts of our world.

Catholic Relief Services gives active witness to the mandate of Jesus Christ to respond to the needs of the human family. The collection supports agencies that build the international social ministry of the Catholic Church. Ministries include relief and resettlement services, development programs to improve the living conditions of the poor, peacemaking and advocacy for a more just and peaceful world.

The collection will be taken up in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the **weekend of January 17 and 18, 2009**. The American Catholic community, and in particular, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, have always responded generously to this annual collection.

I am grateful to you for your charitable response to this request. May you be blessed for your faithfulness to the Gospel and in recognizing Jesus in those who are in need.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of January 10 and 11, 2009. The collection is taken up the weekend of January 17 and 18, 2009. Collection remittal should be made to : ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA, Office for Accounting Services, 222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

January 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the story of the Last Judgment, Jesus reminds us to care for those in need and to recognize him in the poor, the hungry and the disadvantaged. When we act with compassion and commitment to justice for the “least among us,” we act as true disciples of Jesus.

The **Catholic Relief Services Collection** provides a real opportunity for Catholics in the United States to express Christian compassion and generosity. In a concrete way, the collection helps build the Church’s international social ministry by funding the work of six agencies: Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., the Holy Father’s Relief Fund, Migration and Refugee Services, Justice, Peace and Human Development and the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.

In addressing today’s global realities, resources raised by the annual collection make possible much needed humanitarian aid to people suffering, such as young Congolese boys, families in Chadian refugee camps, orphans in Lesotho, and victims of conflict in places like Sudan, Israel, Palestine and other war-torn nations.

This year’s collection will take place on the weekend of **January 16 and 17, 2010**. We, who are so blessed with abundant resources, must always remember the poor since service to those in need is at the heart of the mission of the Church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of January 9 and 10, 2010. This collection is to be taken up the weekend of January 16 and 17, 2010. Collection remittal should be made to: ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA, and sent to the Office for Accounting Services, 222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Catholic Bishops of PA Issue Flu Season Directives

Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania encourage the clergy and faithful to observe the necessary standard precautions to protect the health of others during this flu season, and especially with the risks related to H1N1 influenza (swine flu). The Bishops additionally direct the following for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy and for flu prevention:

- . *The distribution of the Precious Blood for the faithful is generally suspended. The faith of the Church teaches that Christ, whole and entire, is received even under only one species.*
- . *The exchange of the sign of peace is to be offered without any physical contact. If the priest celebrant chooses to extend the invitation for the sign of peace, the faithful, instead of a handshake, may bow to the persons nearby.*

These directives issued by Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania are effective Sunday, October, 18, 2009 until determined otherwise by the local Bishop.



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

February 21, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The story of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is one of a journey guided by the light of Christ. It is a story of vitality and growth, of steadfastness and hope. Your contribution to the **Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe** helps shine the love and radiant light of Christ by supporting seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral centers, church construction and renovation, and the spread of the Gospel message through the mass media.

I invite your generous support of this collection. This collection will be conducted in your parish on a weekend during Lent as determined by your Pastor. I am grateful, on behalf of the many hope-filled people and communities of Central and Eastern Europe, for your generous sacrifice and prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(This collection is to be taken on any Sunday during Lent. Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend prior to the date scheduled for this collection. Collection remittal is to be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

December 25, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

The words of the Prophet Isaiah resound at the Vigil of Christmas, “For Zion’s sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be quiet” (Isaiah 62:1). The Church proclaims with renewed joy and vigor the birth of her Savior, the dawn of our salvation. With profound conviction, the Church announces to the men and women of our age the light and hope which can be found only in this Child who was born so humbly in a stable.

This celebration of the birth of the Lord places before us the opportunity to recognize with ever deeper faith the mystery of the Father’s love fully revealed in the gift of His Son and the call to love God and neighbor in response to this gift. In the face of our weaknesses and sinfulness, it is Christ who gives us hope by making known the mercy of God and who calls us to show that mercy to others. Amidst war and the economic uncertainties faced by our nation, it is Christ who strengthens us to face these challenges with courage so as to shed light upon the darkness which so often marks our world.

I ask the Lord Jesus to deepen your faith that it may bear fruit in charity and hope, renewing your desire to live ever more fully the mystery which we celebrate.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

December 25, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

As we celebrate this holy feast of Christmas, the words of the Angel spoken to the shepherds are proclaimed anew: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy . . . a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” The Church makes these words her own as she announces to all people the joy and peace that were born on Christmas morning.

These words of the Angel led the shepherds to search out the infant Jesus and to encounter Him in the presence of Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family. So too for us, the words of the Angel invite us to contemplate the joy and hope of this Christmas day. God has sent us a Savior, His Son who brings us lasting peace.

And so: Do not be afraid! Our Savior is born. Let us adore Him, with Mary and Joseph, through our fidelity to prayer, especially in the celebration of Mass. And with the Angel of the Lord, the shepherds, and the whole Church, let us make the message of Christ’s birth known to all, especially by our love for one another.

May the Lord Jesus continue to bless you and may our Mother Mary and Saint Joseph watch over you always.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

25 de diciembre del 2009

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

¡Qué la gracia y la paz de nuestro Señor Jesucristo sea con ustedes!

Las palabras del profeta Isaías resuenan en la vigilia de Navidad, «Por amor a Sión no me callaré. Por Jerusalén no quedaré tranquilo» (Isaías 62:1). La Iglesia proclama con alegría y vigor renovados el nacimiento de su Salvador, los albores de nuestra salvación. Con profunda convicción, la Iglesia anuncia a los hombres y mujeres de nuestra época, la luz y esperanza que sólo se puede encontrar en este Niño que nació tan humildemente en un establo.

Esta celebración del nacimiento del Señor presenta ante nosotros la oportunidad de reconocer con fe cada vez más profunda el misterio del amor del Padre completamente revelado en el don de su Hijo y la llamada a amar a Dios y al prójimo en respuesta a este don. Frente a nuestras debilidades y carácter pecaminoso, es Cristo quien nos da esperanza haciendo conocer la misericordia de Dios y quien nos llama a demostrar esa misericordia a los demás. En medio de guerra e incertidumbres económicas enfrentadas por nuestra nación, es Cristo quien nos fortalece para hacer frente a estos retos con valentía para arrojar luz sobre la oscuridad que tan a menudo marca a nuestro mundo.

Yo le pido al Señor Jesús que profundice su fe para que pueda dar fruto en caridad y esperanza, renovando su deseo de vivir cada vez más plenamente el misterio que celebramos.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

25 de diciembre, 2010

Queridos amigos en Cristo:

¡Que la gracia y la paz de nuestro Señor Jesucristo estén con ustedes!

Al celebrar esta fiesta santa de Navidad, las palabras del ángel dichas a los pastores son proclamadas otra vez: «No teman, les traigo una buena noticia que causará gran alegría . . . les ha nacido un salvador, que es Cristo, el Señor». La Iglesia hace propias estas palabras mientras anuncia a toda la gente la alegría y la paz que nacieron en la mañana de Navidad.

Estas palabras del ángel guiaron a los pastores a descubrir al niño Jesús y encontrarlo en la presencia de María y José, la Sagrada Familia. Así también para nosotros, las palabras del ángel nos invitan a contemplar la alegría y la esperanza de este día de Navidad. Dios nos ha enviado un salvador, su Hijo que nos trae la paz de vida eterna.

Y ahora: ¡No teman! Nuestro Salvador ha nacido. Vamos a adorarlo, con María y José, a través de nuestra fidelidad a orar, especialmente en la celebración de la misa. Y con el ángel del Señor, los pastores y toda la Iglesia, demos a conocer a todos el mensaje del nacimiento de Cristo, especialmente por nuestro amor del uno con el otro.

Que el Señor Jesús continúe bendiciéndolos y que nuestra Madre María y San José los cuide siempre.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

NORMS REGARDING CREMATION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

The traditional teaching of the Catholic Church with regard to the proper burial of the sacred remains of the deceased and the resurrection of the body on the last day requires periodic catechesis. This is especially so today with the ever-increasing number of Catholics choosing cremation.

While interment of the body remains the preference of the Church, after the manner of the burial of the Lord Jesus, the use of cremation is allowed according to the following norms. These norms promote the faith and practice of the Church with regard to the burial of a Christian. For the most part, these are already in force according to current liturgical law and the liturgical books. Thus, respect for the remains of the cremated body, as befits the dignity of a baptized person, is ensured. It is the duty of the pastor, with other priests and deacons, to communicate these norms to parishioners, bereavement ministers and funeral directors as part of a periodic catechesis on the reverent and proper burial of the dead.

NORMS FOR FUNERAL RITES WITH CREMATION:

A. If a body is to be cremated, it is always preferable that cremation take place after the Funeral Liturgy.

When cremation takes place after the Funeral Liturgy, the Rite of Committal occurs with the burial/disposition of the cremated remains. The Rite of Committal does not take place in the church after the Rite of Final Commendation at the conclusion of the Funeral Liturgy.

B. If a body is cremated prior to the Funeral Liturgy and the burial/disposition follows, then:

1) The cremated remains are to be brought to the Church in a worthy vessel, that is, in a solid and durable container, which may appropriately be marked with the name of the deceased;

2) The vessel may be carried in the entrance procession or it may be put in place before the Funeral Liturgy begins (cf. OCF, no. 427);

3) The vessel is to be positioned on a suitable table in the same place where the coffin is usually positioned, and not in the sanctuary (cf. OCF, no. 427);

4) The covering of the vessel with the pall is to be omitted (cf. OCF, no. 434);

5) The Funeral Liturgy is to be celebrated in accord with the Roman Missal, the Order of Christian Funerals and "Appendix 2" of the Order of Christian Funerals (cf. OCF, no. 428);

- 6) Texts should be chosen in view of the fact that the body of the deceased is not present but has been cremated (cf. OCF, nos. 428-429);
- 7) In the Funeral Mass with cremated remains, the Rite of Final Commendation is to take place following the Prayer after Communion; in the Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass with cremated remains, the Rite of Final Commendation takes place following the Lord's Prayer;
- 8) The alternate form of the dismissal is to be used (OCF, no. 437);
- 9) The Rite of Committal is to be conducted at the cemetery, mausoleum or columbarium as soon as possible following the Funeral Liturgy, using the alternate form (OCF, no. 438);

It is most appropriate that the burial/disposition of the cremated remains immediately follow the Funeral Liturgy.

In any case, the length of time between the Funeral Liturgy and the burial of cremated remains is not to exceed thirty days.

- 10) The cremated remains are to be buried in a cemetery or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium (cf. OCF, no. 417);

A mausoleum or columbarium can only be erected where there is already a cemetery (CCL, c. 1242).

It is not permitted to scatter cremated remains.

Likewise, it is not permitted to delay the burial/disposition of the cremated remains in anticipation of the eventual burial of another person. The permanent storage of cremated remains in a private home, funeral home or any other place is prohibited.

The integrity of the cremated remains is always to be respected. The cremated remains of one deceased person may not be mixed with the cremated remains of another person. It is not permitted to divide the cremated remains and retain, inter or entomb them in more than one place.

It is also not permitted to divide the cremated remains in such a way that they are contained in lockets or jewelry. Any other practice which violates the integrity of the cremated remains and impedes reverent and proper burial/disposition is prohibited.

If burial takes place at sea, the cremated remains are to be in a solid and durable container, and not scattered.

11) The place of burial or entombment may be memorialized appropriately.

C. If cremation and burial/disposition takes place prior to the Funeral Liturgy, then:

- 1) The funeral rites are to be adapted according to the prescriptions of "Appendix 2" of the Order of Christian Funerals (cf. nos. 422-425).
- 2) The Rite of Committal with the Final Commendation takes place with the burial/disposition of the cremated remains.
- 3) The Funeral Liturgy may follow but without the Rite of Final Commendation and the Rite of Committal, since these have already taken place.

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia
October 1, 2010

References above:

OCF refers to the Order of Christian Funerals

CCL refers to the Code of Canon Law



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Easter 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of the Risen Lord Jesus be with you!

The Church proclaims with renewed devotion and joy the victory of her Lord and Savior over sin and death. The words of the angel to Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb, announced to us once again at the Vigil of Easter, stir within the heart of the Church sentiments of profound hope: "He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Then go quickly and tell his disciples" (Mt 28: 6-7).

How important these words are for us as the Church of Philadelphia as we end the celebration of our founding as a diocese 200 years ago. The same passage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew tells us that in response to this word of God made known to Mary Magdalene and the other women by the angel, ".....they went quickly away from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples" (Mt 28:8).

I pray that our devout keeping of the season of Lent and our celebration of our Bicentennial Year have prepared us well to renew this Easter with firm conviction our faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our willingness to make Him known to others.

A Blessed Easter to you all!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

[Please communicate the contents of this letter to the faithful during the weekend of March 22-23, 2008]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Easter 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of the Risen Lord Jesus be with you!

As the Church celebrates the Vigil of the great Feast of Easter, we are reminded of the promise God made to His people through the prophet Isaiah, “Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, my love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the Lord, who has mercy on you” (Isaiah 54: 10).

We rejoice in the fulfillment of that promise through the death and resurrection of God’s beloved Son, Jesus our Lord. Through His sacred passion, death and resurrection, Jesus has forged a bond between ourselves and God His Father that can never be broken. How blessed are we to share in that covenant through faith and baptism and to live in the hope of the eternal life that Jesus has won for us!

As we renew the promises of our baptism this Easter, I pray that our faith in God’s profound love for us may be deepened. May this faith lead us to a greater love of God and neighbor so that the Church in Philadelphia may be strengthened in every virtue and good work.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

[Please communicate this letter to the faithful during the weekend of April 11-12, 2009]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Pascua 2008

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

¡Qué la gracia y paz del Señor Jesús resucitado esté con ustedes!

La Iglesia proclama con devoción renovada y regocijo la victoria de su Señor y Salvador sobre el pecado y la muerte. Las palabras del ángel a María Magdalena en la tumba vacía, anunciada a nosotros de nuevo en la Vigilia de Pascua, aviva en el corazón de la Iglesia sentimientos de esperanza profunda: «No está aquí, pues ha resucitado, tal como lo había anunciado. Vengan a ver el lugar donde lo habían puesto, pero vuelvan enseguida y digan a sus discípulos...» (Mt 28: 6-7).

Que importante estas palabras son para nosotros como la Iglesia de Filadelfia al finalizar la celebración de nuestra fundación como una diócesis hace 200 años. El mismo pasaje del Evangelio de san Mateo dice que en respuesta a estas palabras de Dios dichas a María Magdalena y las otras mujeres por el ángel, «Ellas se fueron al instante del sepulcro, con temor, pero con una alegría inmensa a la vez, y corrieron a llevar la noticia a los discípulos» (Mt 28:8).

Oro para que la observancia devota del tiempo de cuaresma y la celebración de nuestro Año Bicentenario nos hayan preparado bien para renovar esta Pascua con convicción firme de nuestra fe en el Evangelio de Jesucristo y nuestro deseo de que otros lo conozcan a Él.

¡Una Pascua bendita a todos ustedes!

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

[Por favor, comunique el contenido de esta carta a los fieles en el fin de semana de marzo 22-23 del 2008]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Pascua 2009

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

¡Qué la gracia y la paz del Señor Resucitado Jesús esté con ustedes!

Cuando la Iglesia celebra la Vigilia del gran Banquete de la Pascua, nos recuerda la promesa que Dios hizo a su pueblo a través del profeta Isaías: «Los cerros podrán correrse y moverse las lomas; mas yo no retiraré mi amor, ni se romperá mi alianza de paz contigo; lo afirma el Señor, que se compadece de ti »(Isaías 54: 10).

Nos regocijamos en el cumplimiento de aquella promesa por la muerte y la resurrección del Hijo querido de Dios, Jesús, Nuestro Señor. Por su sagrada pasión, muerte y resurrección, Jesús ha forjado un vínculo entre nosotros y Dios su Padre que nunca puede ser roto. ¡Cuán bendecidos somos nosotros en compartir en aquel convenio a través de la fe y el bautismo y vivir en la esperanza de la vida eterna que Jesús ha ganado para nosotros!

Mientras renovamos las promesas de nuestro bautismo esta Pascua, yo rezo para que nuestra fe en el amor profundo de Dios por nosotros puede ser profundizada. Que esta fe nos conduzca a un mayor amor a Dios y al prójimo de modo que la Iglesia en Filadelfia pueda ser fortalecida en cada virtud y buena acción.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

[Favor de comunicar esta carta a sus feligreses en el fin de semana 11-12 de abril del 2009]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Easter 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of the Risen Lord Jesus be with you!

Today we are united with the Church throughout the world in rejoicing in the victory of our Lord and Savior over sin and death. For this reason “Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the ‘Feast of all feasts’, the ‘Solemnity of all solemnities’” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1169). Our cause for rejoicing permeates every aspect of our lives; it has changed the course of history for all time.

How blessed are we that God our Father has given us a share in the victory of His Son Jesus through the gift of faith and through the sacraments, especially Baptism and the Eucharist! What a difference it makes to know that we face the temptations and difficulties of life united with the One who has emerged victorious. As Saint Paul reminds us, “so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

I pray that God will deepen our faith in his Son’s Death and Resurrection, and through the renewal of the promises of our Baptism draw us ever more fully into this holy mystery.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

[Please communicate this letter to the faithful during the weekend of April 3-4, 2010]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Pascua del 2010

Amadísimos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

¡Qué la gracia y la paz del Señor Jesús Resucitado sea con ustedes!

Hoy estamos unidos con la Iglesia en todo el mundo en regocijo en la victoria de Nuestro Señor y Salvador sobre el pecado y la muerte. Por esta razón «la *Pascua no es simplemente una fiesta entre otras: es la "Fiesta de las fiestas", "Solemnidad de las solemnidades"*». (Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, 1169). Nuestro motivo de regocijo impregna todos los aspectos de nuestras vidas; ha cambiado el curso de la historia por todos los tiempos.

¡Qué bendecidos hemos sido que Dios nuestro Padre ha compartido la victoria de su Hijo Jesús a través del don de la fe y por medio de los sacramentos, especialmente el Bautismo y la Eucaristía! ¡Cuán diferente es el saber que nos enfrentamos a las tentaciones y a las dificultades de la vida en unión con Aquél que ha salido victorioso! Como san Pablo nos recuerda, «así como Cristo fue resucitado de entre los muertos por la gloria del Padre, así también nosotros empezamos una vida nueva». (Romanos 6:4)

Yo oro para que Dios profundice nuestra fe en la Muerte y Resurrección de su Hijo, y que a través de la renovación de la promesa del Bautismo nos atraiga más plenamente a su sagrado misterio.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

[Favor de comunicar esta carta a los fieles durante el fin de semana de abril 3-4 del 2010]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Easter 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of the Risen Lord Jesus be with you!

As the Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the words of the psalmist echo in our hearts: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." We rejoice in Christ's triumph over sin and death and we recognize that this Easter day offers us a new share in Christ's victory.

We are privileged to share in Christ's victory through the sacraments of the Church which restore us to a life of grace and which join us to the mission of Jesus. With the apostles and disciples, we too are called to be witnesses of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus through the practice of our faith and the holiness of our lives. In this way, we invite others to faith in Jesus Christ and we contribute to building up the Church.

During this Easter season, I pray that God will renew our faith in Christ's victory over sin and death so that we may faithfully witness to His love and mercy.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

[Please communicate this letter to the faithful during the weekend of April 23-24, 2011]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Pascua del 2011

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

¡Qué la gracia y la paz del Cristo Resucitado estén con ustedes!

A medida que la Iglesia celebra la resurrección de Jesucristo, las palabras del salmista hacen eco en nuestros corazones: «¡Éste es el día que ha hecho el Señor, gocemos y alegrémonos en él!» Nos regocijamos en el triunfo de Cristo sobre el pecado y la muerte y reconocemos que este día de Pascua nos ofrece participar de nuevo en la victoria de Cristo.

Tenemos el privilegio de compartir en la victoria de Cristo a través de los sacramentos de la Iglesia, los que nos restauran a una vida de gracia y nos unen a la misión de Jesús. Con los apóstoles y discípulos, también nosotros estamos llamados a ser testimonios de la vida, muerte y resurrección de Jesús a través de la práctica de nuestra fe y la santidad de nuestras vidas. De este modo, invitamos a otros a la fe en Jesucristo y contribuimos a la edificación de su Iglesia.

Durante este tiempo de Pascua, yo oro para que Dios renueve nuestra fe en la victoria de Cristo sobre el pecado y la muerte para que podamos dar testimonio fiel de su amor y misericordia.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

[Favor de comunicar esta carta a los fieles en el fin de semana del 23-24 de abril del 2011]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

June 1, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I invite you to participate through prayer in the 49th International Eucharistic Congress which will be held in Quebec City, Canada from June 15 to June 22nd. The congress, whose theme is "The Eucharist, gift of God for the life of the world," is an event of special importance for our Church and for all the faithful in our Archdiocese and throughout the world.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has invited us to rediscover the reality of the Eucharist as a source of energy to transform our lives. This Eucharistic Congress responds to the invitation of our Holy Father: "Let us encourage one another to walk joyfully, our hearts filled with wonder, towards our encounter with the Holy Eucharist."

It will be my great honor to participate in the International Eucharistic Congress and to be joined by the pilgrims from our Archdiocese. I am enclosing a copy of the special Eucharistic Congress prayer for the event and I invite every parish to offer this prayer throughout the week of the Congress, in solidarity with the pilgrims who will be in Quebec.

May God bless you through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of our Eucharistic Lord and our Mother.

Sincerely yours,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

Enclosure

The Eucharist, gift of God for the life of the World

God our Father,
we bless you and give you thanks
for your Son Jesus, the gift of your love for the life of the world.

Watch over your Church as it celebrates in joy and hope
the 49th International Eucharistic Congress.

Renew our faith in the Holy Eucharist,
the memorial of your Son's death and resurrection.

May your Holy Spirit shed His light upon us
and grant us strength
to serve as faithful witnesses to the Gospel.

Nourish us with your Word and your Bread of Life
so that united with Mary,
the Mother of your Divine Son and Mother of the Church,
we will bear much fruit
for the salvation of the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE FOR LENT

2010

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

All are encouraged to participate in “Operation Rice Bowl,” which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world.

Special Note: *Because the Feast of Saint Joseph will be on a Friday in Lent this year, the obligation to abstain from meat does not bind on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Friday, March 19, 2010.*



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

March 14, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year we celebrate the day of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday as a day of prayer and fasting. It is a solemn day, contemplating the sacrifice which Jesus willingly undertook to redeem us from sin and death. Since the first historical reference to this Collection dating back to 1421, the Popes have desired that Good Friday also be a day of almsgiving on behalf of the Catholic Community in the Holy Land and for the maintenance of the sacred sites of our redemption in Jesus Christ.

The political and economical crisis of this area has not yet been resolved and shows evidence each day of unspeakable suffering. Due to these circumstances, the Catholic community is prone to feel isolated from the rest of the Church. Their needs and the support needed for the sacred places, educational and charitable institutions in the Holy Land are great. This impresses upon all of us that there is an absolute and urgent need to support our brothers and sisters in this land, and to do so through prayer as well as financial support.

On behalf of those Christians who live in the places where Jesus walked, taught, lived and died, I encourage your most generous and sacrificial support of the annual **Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land** on **March 21** of this year. I know that God our Father will reward your generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of March 15 and 16, 2008; the collection is taken up on March 21, 2008 (Good Friday). Collection remittance is to be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to the Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

26 de marzo del 2010

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

En *Viernes Santo*, 2 de abril, celebramos el misterio de la Pasión del Señor, contemplando el sacrificio por el que Jesús redimió la raza humana del pecado y la muerte. También ha sido nuestra tradición desde hace mucho tiempo como católicos ofrecer limosnas en apoyo de la comunidad católica en Tierra Santa.

Conforme a lo dispuesto por nuestro Santo Padre, el papa Benedicto XVI, los fondos generados por esta colecta apoyan programas y servicios en Tierra Santa. Se necesita ayuda para mantener los lugares sagrados, para proporcionar programas educativos y pastorales, así como programas de alcance para los pobres a través de instituciones de beneficencia establecidas.

En nombre de esos cristianos y otros en tanta necesidad, pido su más generoso y sacrificado apoyo a la **Colecta del Viernes Santo para la Tierra Santa** el 2 de abril del 2010. Sé que Dios Nuestro Padre recompensará su generosidad más allá de lo imaginado.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

[Por favor, comuníquese el contenido de esta carta a sus feligreses de la manera más adecuada el fin de semana del **27 y 28 de marzo del 2010**; la colecta se hará el **2 de abril del 2010 (Viernes Santo)**. La recaudación de la colecta se debe hacer pagadera a: *ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA* y enviada a: *Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.*]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

March 26, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On *Good Friday*, April 2, we celebrate the mystery of the Lord's Passion, contemplating the sacrifice by which Jesus redeemed the human race from sin and death. It also has been our longstanding tradition as Catholics to offer alms in support of the Catholic Community in the Holy Land.

As directed by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, funds generated by this collection support programs and services in the Holy Land. Support is needed to maintain the sacred places, to provide educational and pastoral programs as well as outreach programs for the poor through established charitable institutions.

On behalf of those Christians and others in so much need, I seek your most generous and sacrificial support of the **Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land on April 2, 2010**. I know that God our Father will reward your generosity beyond all measure.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of **March 27 and 28, 2010**; the collection is taken up on **April 2, 2010 (Good Friday)**. Collection remittal is to be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to the Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3103 • FAX 202-541-3166

URGENTE: VOLANTE DE USCCB PARA BOLETINES EN TODA LA NACIÓN

¡Detenga el financiamiento de abortos en la reforma del sistema de salud!

Proteja la conciencia

Garantice una cobertura asequible

Permita a los inmigrantes adquirir seguros de salud privados

Como promotores durante largo tiempo de la reforma del sistema de salud, los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos continúan sosteniendo, desde el punto de vista moral, que una verdadera reforma debe proteger la vida, la dignidad, la conciencia y la salud de todos, especialmente de los pobres y vulnerables. La reforma del sistema de salud no deberá avanzar una agenda que promueva el aborto en nuestro país.

- El 7 de noviembre, la Cámara de Representantes aprobó una importante reforma del sistema de salud que reafirma la política esencial, de amplio respaldo desde hace mucho tiempo, de rehusar fondos federales para abortos electivos; el proyecto incluye medidas positivas en cuanto a la accesibilidad y sobre los inmigrantes.
- El 24 de diciembre, el Senado rechazó esta política y aprobó una versión del proyecto que autorizaría fondos federales para ayudar a subsidiar y promover planes de salud que cubran abortos electivos. Quienes adquieran esos planes tendrán que pagar por los abortos de otros, mediante un aporte separado destinado solamente para financiar esos procedimientos.
- En otro contexto, ambos proyectos carecen de adecuada protección de la conciencia para los prestadores de cuidado de salud, planes o empleadores.
- Ahora ambos proyectos deberán combinarse en uno solo sobre cual la Cámara y el Senado votarán. Disposiciones contra el financiamiento del aborto y a favor de la protección de la conciencia; accesibilidad, incluyendo a los inmigrantes, deben formar parte de un proyecto de reforma de salud justo; de lo contrario, el proyecto final debe rechazarse.

ACCIÓN: Contacte a su representante y senadores hoy, por e-mail, teléfono o FAX.

- **Para enviar un correo electrónico instantáneo con un mensaje ya preparado al Congreso, vaya a www.usccb.org/action.**
- Llame a la central del Capitolio: 202-224-3121, o a las oficinas locales de su congresista. La información de contacto se halla en el sitio digital de los miembros del Congreso en www.house.gov y www.senate.gov.

MENSAJE—CÁMARA:

“Me complace que el proyecto de reforma de salud aprobado por la Cámara mantenga la política contra el financiamiento federal del aborto que se ha venido respaldando por mucho tiempo. Le pido que trabaje a favor de mantener estas disposiciones esenciales contra el financiamiento de abortos, por incluir plena protección de conciencia y garantizar que los servicios de salud sean accesibles y asequibles para todos. Le exhorto a que, a menos que se reúnan estos criterios, se oponga al proyecto final”.

MENSAJE—SENADO:

“Estoy profundamente decepcionado de que el proyecto de reforma de salud aprobado por el Senado no mantuviera la política aceptada por mucho tiempo contra el financiamiento federal del aborto ni incluyera adecuada protección de conciencia. Le pido que apoye disposiciones esenciales contra el financiamiento de abortos, similares a las contenidas en el proyecto aprobado por la Cámara. Incluya la plena protección de conciencia y garantice que los servicios de salud sean accesibles y asequibles para todos. Le exhorto a que, a menos que se reúnan estos criterios, se oponga al proyecto final”.

¿CUÁNDO?: La votación sobre el proyecto final en la Cámara y en el Senado se espera para enero.

¡Actúe hoy! ¡Gracias!

Actualizado 7/1/10



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3103 • FAX 202-541-3166

URGENT: USCCB NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care Reform!

Protect Conscience

Ensure Affordable Health Coverage

Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants.
- On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion.
- Outside the abortion context, neither bill has adequate conscience protection for health care providers, plans or employers.
- These two bills must now be combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form. Provisions against abortion funding and in favor of conscience protection, affordability, and immigrants' access to health care must be part of a fair and just health care reform bill, or the final bill must be opposed.

ACTION: Contact your Representative and Senators today by e-mail, phone or FAX.

- **To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.**
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE—HOUSE:

"I am pleased that the House health care bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. I urge you to work to uphold essential provisions against abortion funding, to include full conscience protection and to assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

MESSAGE—SENATE:

"I am deeply disappointed that the Senate health care bill fails to maintain the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion and does not include adequate protection for conscience. I urge you to support essential provisions against abortion funding, similar to those in the House bill. Include full conscience protection and assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

WHEN: Votes in the House and Senate on the final bill are expected in January.

Act today! Thank You!

Anuncios desde el púlpito y Oración de intercesión

Instrucciones: En octubre y noviembre, los obispos católicos de los EE.UU. le pidieron al personal parroquial y diocesano de toda la nación que distribuyeran dos volantes en el boletín sobre la reforma del sistema de salud. Gracias por su excelente cooperación. El 7 de noviembre, la Cámara de Representantes aprobó una importante reforma del sistema de salud que reafirma la política fundamental, establecida hace mucho tiempo y que goza de amplio respaldo, que impide el uso de fondos federales para abortos electivos. El 24 de diciembre, el Senado rechazó esta política y aprobó una reforma del sistema de salud que requiere fondos federales para subsidiar y fomentar planes de salud que dan cobertura para abortos electivos. Ahora se combinarán estos dos proyectos en un único proyecto de ley que tanto la Cámara de Representantes como el Senado votarán en su forma definitiva. Un proyecto de ley de reforma del sistema de salud que sea equitativo y justo debe impedir la financiación de abortos y favorecer la protección de los derechos de conciencia, la asequibilidad y su accesibilidad para los inmigrantes. Los obispos, que desde hace mucho tiempo apoyan una verdadera reforma del sistema de salud, se opondrán a esta legislación a menos que cumpla con estos criterios. **Se acerca el momento de las votaciones finales, por lo que los obispos de los EE.UU. piden que el Volante de USCCB para boletines en toda la nación adjunto se imprima, se inserte en todos los boletines parroquiales, o se distribuya en los bancos o a la entrada de las iglesias, lo más pronto posible.**

Para anunciar en todas la misas durante el fin de semana en el que se distribuya el volante:

El Congreso continúa debatiendo la propuesta de reforma al sistema de salud. Aunque la Cámara de Representantes aprobó legislación de salud que prohíbe al gobierno federal financiar abortos electivos, e incluye disposiciones que hacen que la atención de salud sea asequible y accesible para todos, el Senado la rechazó y aprobó un proyecto que requiere fondos federales para subsidiar y fomentar planes de salud que dan cobertura para abortos electivos mientras que obligan a quienes contratan estos planes a pagar directamente para los abortos de otros. Ahora se deberán combinar estos dos proyectos en un único proyecto de ley que tanto la Cámara de Representantes como el Senado votarán en su forma definitiva. Los obispos de los EE.UU. siguen oponiéndose firmemente a la financiación del aborto, y también reclaman mejoras decisivas en la protección los derechos de conciencia, que los cuidados médicos estén al alcance de los pobres y vulnerables, y que los inmigrantes tengan acceso.

Hoy encontrarán en los bancos o en el boletín un volante de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los EE.UU. que les pide que se pongan en contacto con sus representantes legislativos inmediatamente y aprémienlos a abordar estas cuestiones morales. El volante o inserto en el boletín incluye un sitio electrónico que les permite enviar un mensaje al Congreso con solo presionar un botón. Los obispos nos piden acción inmediata y nuestras oraciones. Muchas gracias por su ayuda. Juntos podemos asegurarnos de que la reforma del sistema de salud protegerá la vida, la dignidad y la salud de todos. La reforma del sistema de salud debe salvar vidas, no destruirlas.

Para anunciar en todas la misas durante el fin de semana siguiente a la distribución del volante:

El Congreso continúa debatiendo la propuesta de reforma al sistema de salud. La semana pasada recibieron un volante especial de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los EE.UU. que les pedía ponerse en contacto con sus representantes legislativos inmediatamente para pedirles que se opusieran a la financiación de abortos y mejoraran la protección de los derechos de conciencia, la asequibilidad para los pobres y vulnerables, y el acceso a los cuidados médicos para los inmigrantes. El volante o inserto para boletín incluía un sitio electrónico que les permitió enviar un mensaje al Congreso con solo presionar un botón. Pueden encontrar más volantes en _____ (vestíbulo de la iglesia, etc.). Los obispos nos piden acción inmediata y nuestras oraciones. Muchas gracias por su ayuda. Juntos podemos asegurarnos de que la reforma del sistema de salud salve vidas, no que las destruya.

Sugerencia para la Oración de los fieles:

Para que el Congreso tome medidas para que la necesaria reforma al sistema de salud verdaderamente proteja la vida, la dignidad y la salud de todos; y para que levantemos nuestras voces para proteger la vida de los niños por nacer, de los más desamparados y para preservar nuestra libertad de conciencia. Roguemos al Señor.

Anime a los fieles a rezar también por este esfuerzo. Para más información: www.usccb.org/healthcare

UPDATED: Pulpit Announcements & Prayer Petition

Instructions: During October and November, diocesan and parish leaders were asked by the U.S. bishops to distribute two Nationwide Bulletin Inserts on health care reform. Thank for your great cooperation. On November 7, the U.S. House passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortion coverage. On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. These two bills must now be combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form. Provisions against abortion funding and in favor of conscience rights, affordability and access to health care for immigrants must be part of a fair and just health care reform bill. The bishops, who have long supported genuine health care reform, will oppose this legislation unless these criteria are met. **Given the upcoming final votes, the U.S. bishops have asked that the attached USCCB Nationwide Bulletin Insert (Spanish Insert) be printed or hand-stuffed in every parish bulletin and/or distributed in pews or at church entrances as soon as possible.**

To be announced at all Masses on the weekend when the Bulletin Insert is distributed:

“Congress continues to debate health care reform. While the House passed a health care bill that prevents the federal government from funding elective abortions, and includes provisions making health care affordable and accessible for all, the Senate rejected this and passed a bill that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions, while forcing purchasers to pay directly for other people’s abortions. These two bills must now be combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form. The U.S. bishops continue to strongly oppose abortion funding, while calling for critical improvements in conscience protection, affordability for the poor and vulnerable, and access to health care for immigrants.

In your pews/bulletins today, you’ll find a flier/bulletin insert from the U.S. Bishops Conference asking you to please contact your congressional representatives immediately and urge them to address these moral issues. The flier/bulletin insert includes a web address that allows you to send an email message to Congress with a click of a button. The bishops have asked for our swift action and our prayers. Thank you for your help. We can help make sure that health care reform will protect the lives, dignity, conscience and health of all. Health care reform should be about saving lives, not destroying them.”

To be announced at all Masses on the weekend following the Bulletin Insert distribution:

“Congress continues to debate health care reform. Last weekend you received a special flier/bulletin insert from the U.S. Bishops’ Conference asking you to please contact your congressional representatives immediately asking them to oppose abortion funding and improve conscience protection, affordability for the poor and vulnerable, and access to health care for immigrants. The flier/bulletin insert included a web address that allows you to send an email message to Congress with a click of a button. Additional fliers/bulletin inserts can be found at _____(back of church, etc.). The bishops have asked for our swift action and our prayers. Thank you for your help. We can help make sure that health care reform will protect the lives, dignity, conscience and health of all. Health care reform should be about saving lives, not destroying them.”

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful:

That Congress will act to ensure that needed health care reform will truly protect the life, dignity and health of all and that we will raise our voices to protect the unborn and the most vulnerable and to preserve freedom of conscience. We pray to the Lord.

Please encourage parishioners to pray for this effort as well. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/healthcare.



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3103 • FAX 202-541-3166

UPDATED: NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

U.S. House Keeps Abortion Funding Out of Health Care Reform

Tell Senators: Follow the House's Lead on Removing Abortion Funding

Protect Conscience Rights

Ensure Affordable Health Coverage

Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case for genuine health care reform that will protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortion coverage.
- It is critical that the Senate adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment language on this issue. This Amendment ensures that Americans are not forced to pay for the destruction of unborn children as part of needed health care reform.
- The Senate must address other essential moral priorities: protecting conscience rights; making health coverage more affordable and accessible for those in need; and ensuring that immigrants do not lose or will not be denied health care coverage needed for the good of their families and the health of society.

ACTION: Contact Senate and House Members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters.

- **To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.**
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Full contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE—SENATE:

"Please adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment that upholds longstanding policies against abortion funding, and please protect conscience rights in health care reform. Health care must be made more affordable and accessible to those in need, and immigrants must not lose or be denied health care coverage."

MESSAGE—HOUSE:

"I am pleased that the House-passed health care reform bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. Please work to ensure that this essential provision is included in any final bill sent to the President."

WHEN: The Senate schedule is uncertain. **Act today! Thank you!**

For more information on proposed legislation and the bishops' position on authentic health care reform, visit: www.usccb.org/healthcare.



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3103 • FAX 202-541-3166

Actualización: Volante para boletines en toda la nación

La Cámara de EE.UU. mantiene la financiación del aborto fuera de la reforma de salud.

Dígale a los Senadores: Sigan el ejemplo de la Cámara y eliminén la financiación del aborto

Protejan los derechos de conciencia

Garanticen cobertura médica accesible

Permitan a los inmigrantes comprar seguros privados de salud

Los obispos han abogado durante largo tiempo por la reforma del sistema de salud y continúan defendiendo el caso moral a favor de una reforma genuina que proteja la vida, la dignidad, la conciencia y la salud de todos, especialmente de los pobres y vulnerables.

- El 7 de noviembre, la Cámara de Representantes aprobó importante legislación de reforma de salud que reafirmó disposiciones legales esenciales establecidas hace mucho tiempo con amplio apoyo que impiden el uso de fondos federales para la cobertura médica de abortos electivos.
- Es importantísimo que el Senado adopte el lenguaje referente a este asunto de la Enmienda Stupak ya aprobada por la Cámara de Representantes. Esta enmienda *asegura que los estadounidenses no sean obligados a pagar por la destrucción de niños aún por nacer como parte de la necesaria reforma al sistema de salud.*
- El Senado debe abordar otras prioridades morales esenciales: proteger los derechos de conciencia, hacer el cuidado médico más accesible para aquellos que no tienen seguro médico y asegurarse de que los inmigrantes no pierdan o no se les niegue la cobertura médica necesaria para el bienestar de su familias y la salud de la sociedad.

ACCIÓN: Contacte a los miembros del Senado y de la Cámara por correo electrónico, teléfono o fax.

- **Para enviar al congreso un correo electrónico instantáneo con un mensaje ya preparado visite www.usccb.org/action.**
- Llame a la central telefónica del Capitolio de los EE.UU., al 202-224-3121, o llame a las oficinas locales de los legisladores que le representan. Información de contacto completa para los miembros de ambas cámaras aparece en www.house.gov y www.senate.gov.

MENSAJE AL SENADO:

“Por favor, adopten la Enmienda Stupak ya aprobada por la Cámara de Representantes, que mantiene estipulaciones legales esenciales establecidas hace mucho tiempo que impiden la financiación del aborto y proteja los derechos de conciencia en la reforma del sistema de salud. El cuidado médico debe hacerse más accesible a todos cuantos lo necesitan y que los inmigrantes no pierdan o no se les niegue la cobertura médica que necesitan.”

MENSAJE A LA CÁMARA:

“Me alegra que la Cámara apruebe una legislación de reforma de salud que mantiene las disposiciones legales establecidas hace mucho tiempo que impiden el uso de fondos federales para la financiación del aborto. Por favor, ayude a garantizar que esta importante disposición legal sea incluida en la versión final del proyecto de ley que se enviará al Presidente.”

CUÁNDO: El calendario del Senado es incierto. **¡Actúe hoy mismo! ¡Gracias!**

Para más información sobre las propuestas legislativas y la postura de los obispos sobre una auténtica reforma al sistema de salud visite www.usccb.org/healthcare.

11-13-09



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

April 16, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The shortage of priests is a growing problem in the United States. In mission dioceses of the United States, where funding is often limited, the call to educate and encourage future leaders is a serious challenge.

The **Catholic Home Missions Appeal** is dedicated to strengthening the Church here at home. It is sponsored by the United States Bishops' Committee on the Home Missions. It supports Home Missions from the Deep South to the Western Mountains and beyond. With your support, mission parishes will have greater opportunity to support seminarian training, religious education and other important pastoral functions that will ensure their growth in the faith.

I am deeply grateful to you for your assistance to this splendid cause.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of April 17 and 18, 2010; the collection is taken up the following weekend of April 24 and 25, 2010. Collection remittal should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

April 11, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Next Sunday, the annual **Catholic Home Missions Appeal** will be taken up in parishes across the nation. Since 1998, this Appeal has been a powerful and successful expression of stewardship and our Catholic communion.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal is dedicated to strengthening the Church here at home. It supports fellow Catholics in rugged mission areas such as Alaska, Appalachia, the Deep South, the Rocky Mountain states, the dusty Southwest, Puerto Rico and island dioceses in the Pacific and Caribbean. Your generous support of this appeal is sincerely appreciated as it will strengthen the Church's presence and work in these Home Mission areas.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of **April 12 and 13, 2008**; the collection is taken up the following weekend of **April 19 and 20**. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)



HOLY THURSDAY IN THE *YEAR OF THE PRIEST*

On Holy Thursday, parishes across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will begin the solemn observances with the Liturgy of the Hours. Then, Cardinal Justin Rigali will concelebrate with all of his priests the Holy Thursday Mass of Chrism at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. On Holy Thursday, the Church recalls the institution of the holy priesthood by Christ Himself. During this *Year of the Priest*, all are invited to attend, view or listen to this Chrism Mass.

The Chrism Mass will be streamed live on the Archdiocesan web site www.archphila.org beginning with the Procession at 9:40 a.m. Mass begins at 10:00 a.m. and will also be broadcast live on *Holy Spirit Radio* 1570 AM (WISP) and 1420 AM (WCOJ) and on *The Catholic Channel* on Sirius 159 and XM 117.

During this Mass, Cardinal Rigali will consecrate the Oil of Chrism and bless the Oil of Catechumens and Oil of the Sick. These holy oils will be used throughout the Archdiocese during the coming year in the celebration of the Sacraments.

This Mass is a clear expression of the unity of the priesthood and the sacrifice of Christ, which continues to be present in the Church.

Later in the day on Holy Thursday, parishes will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. At the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Cardinal Rigali will celebrate this Mass at 5:00 p.m. After the homily, following the example of Christ who washed the feet of the apostles at the Last Supper, the Cardinal will wash the feet of twelve seminarians from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. This Mass commemorates the Last Supper, during which Christ instituted the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, the Sacrament of Holy Orders and gave us His commandment to love one another.

Please pray that our continued observance of this Year of the Priest truly provide the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with holy priests for a holy people!





Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

1 de febrero del 2010

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

A lo largo de la historia de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia, nuestra fe católica ha sido nutrida por la fe, el fervor y la energía de los inmigrantes que han llegado a nuestra ciudad a través de los años; muchos de esos inmigrantes provienen de Sudamérica, Centroamérica y México y el área del Caribe. La **Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina** se lleva a cabo anualmente, en las parroquias a través de la nación. Los fondos de la colecta mantienen las numerosas obras de la Iglesia a través de la América Latina y el Caribe.

Una contribución generosa a esta colecta nacional, nos ayuda vivir activamente nuestro llamado a la corresponsabilidad y nos solidariza con nuestros hermanos y hermanas en el hemisferio americano. Aunque nuestra contribución sea modesta, el gesto claramente expresa nuestro deseo de manifestar esa solidaridad. Es obvio que muchos de ustedes, tan generosamente... y con toda razón..., hacen sacrificios aquí en la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia para enviar el dinero necesario a «casa», a los miembros de la familia. A través de esta colecta permitimos a nuestra Iglesia alcanzar, como también ayudar aún más, a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en suelos natales de América Latina y el Caribe.

El Subcomité de la Iglesia en América Latina de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB) utiliza los fondos de la colecta para apoyar proyectos pastorales en 22 países y el trabajo del Departamento de Desarrollo Social y Paz Mundial, asistiendo a la Iglesia en América Latina. Estos fondos proporcionan ayuda inmediata, crítica y básica y a la misma vez abordan los factores estructurales que han permitido que la pobreza se haga un problema crónico en el área. Para información acerca del trabajo continuado en Latinoamérica visiten www.usccb.org/latinamerica

Les pido que consideren participar y contribuir a esta Colecta. Yo estoy muy agradecido de su generosidad a esta necesidad. Que María, nuestra Madre, continuamente nos recuerde nuestra unidad en su Hijo.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

(Esta colecta debe tener lugar cualquier domingo apropiado durante cuaresma. Favor de comunicarle el contenido de esta carta a sus feligreses, del modo más apropiado, el fin de semana anterior al designado para la colecta. El pago de las contribuciones debe ser hecho a nombre de: *ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA*, y enviado a: *Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103*)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

1 de febrero del 2008

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

La **Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina** se lleva a cabo anualmente, en las parroquias a través de la nación. Los fondos de la colecta mantienen las numerosas obras de la Iglesia a través de la América Latina y el Caribe. Históricamente, aquí, en la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia, nuestra fe católica ha sido bendecida a través de la fe, el celo y la energía de casi incontables inmigrantes que han llegado a nuestra ciudad a través de los años. Más recientemente aquellos que llegan son de Sudamérica, Centroamérica y México.

Cuando contribuimos generosamente a esta Colecta nacional, estamos viviendo activamente nuestro llamado a la corresponsabilidad y solidarizándonos con nuestros hermanos y hermanas de todo el hemisferio americano. Aunque nuestra contribución se limite a una pequeña donación, esto claramente expresa nuestro deseo de manifestar esa solidaridad.

En este año pasado Perú, México, la República Dominicana, Cuba, Guatemala, Chile (para nombrar sólo unos cuantos) han sufrido tremendas catástrofes con la pérdida de vidas, propiedades y recursos internacionales.

El Comité de la Iglesia en América Latina de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos utiliza los fondos de la Colecta para apoyar los proyectos pastorales de 22 países y el trabajo del Departamento de Desarrollo Social y Paz Mundial en pro de la Iglesia de América Latina. Para mayor información sobre el trabajo del Comité sírvanse dirigirse a www.usccb.org/latinamerica.

Les pido que consideren participar y contribuir a esta Colecta, y yo estoy muy agradecido de su generosidad. Juntos, vamos a orarle al Señor para que continúe bendiciéndonos en todo lo que hacemos. Y que María, nuestra Madre, continuamente nos recuerde nuestra unidad en su Hijo.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

(Esta colecta debe tener lugar cualquier domingo apropiado durante cuaresma. Favor de comunicarle el contenido de esta carta a sus feligreses, del modo más apropiado, el fin de semana anterior al designado para la colecta. El pago de las contribuciones debe ser hecho a nombre de: ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA, y enviado a: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

February 1, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The national **Collection for the Church in Latin America** is held in parishes across the country yearly. Proceeds from the collection support the many works of the Church throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Historically, here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, we have been blessed through the faith, zeal and energy of almost countless immigrants coming to our city over many years. Most recently, those arriving are from Latin America, South and Central America and Mexico.

When we contribute to this national Collection, we are actively living out our call to stewardship and participating in a work of solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout the American hemisphere. Even if our own circumstances limit our contribution to simply a “widow’s mite” offering, we clearly express our desire to manifest that solidarity.

In this past year Perú, México, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Guatemala, Chile(to name just a few) have suffered tremendous catastrophies with loss of life, property and international resources.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on the Church in Latin America uses the collection funds to support its pastoral grants program in 22 countries and to support the work of the Department of Social Development and World Peace on behalf of the Church in Latin America. Further information on the Committee’s work can be found at www.usccb.org/latinamerica.

I ask you to consider contributing to this Collection, and I am grateful for your generosity. Together, let us ask the Lord to continue to bless us in all that we do. And may Mary, our Mother, continually remind us of our oneness in her Son, Jesus.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(This collection is to be taken on any appropriate Sunday during Lent. Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend prior to the date scheduled for this collection. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Lent 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Through the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our desire to conform ourselves more fully to Christ each day is given expression during this holy season through acts of penance. We have all been made one with Christ through Baptism. Penance offers us the opportunity to allow the sanctifying grace of this Sacrament to unfold more completely in our lives.

Efforts at reconciliation, concern for the salvation of one's neighbor, the practice of charity, care for the poor, prayer, the exercise and defense of justice and the endurance of persecution for righteousness' sake are all means by which we can take up our cross each day and become united to Christ more fully.

I encourage you to embrace these works of love of God and neighbor during the days of Lent so as to be prepared to renew the promises of your baptism at Easter and so be more fully a part of the life of Christ and his Church. In particular I recommend to all of you the reception of the Sacrament of Penance, by which our Lord Jesus Christ personally offers His mercy and love.

Sincerely in Christ,
+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

[Please communicate this letter to the faithful during the weekend of February 13-14, 2010.]

FAST AND ABSTINENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE FOR LENT

2009

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2009, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

All are encouraged to participate in “Operation Rice Bowl,” which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world.

AYUNO Y ABSTINENCIA Y OTROS ACTOS DE PENITENCIA PARA CUARESMA

2009

Los obispos de los Estados Unidos prescriben, como obligación mínima, que todas las personas que son de catorce años y mayores están obligadas a abstenerse de comer carne el Miércoles de Cenizas, 25 de febrero del 2009, todos los viernes de cuaresma y el Viernes Santo. Además, todas las personas desde los dieciocho años de edad hasta los cincuenta y nueve años, inclusives, están obligadas a ayunar limitándose a una comida fuerte en Miércoles de Cenizas y en Viernes Santo, mientras que las otras dos comidas en cada uno de esos días deben ser livianas.

Todos los fieles son animados, cuando es posible, a participar en la Misa y recibir la Santísima Eucaristía diariamente; a celebrar frecuentemente el Sacramento de la Penitencia; leer lecturas espiritual, especialmente el estudio de las Sagradas Escrituras; y a participar en las devociones cuaresmales de la parroquia, como también de los programas cuaresmales de educación. La Adoración del Santísimo Sacramento es especialmente recomendada.

Se anima a todos a participar en la Operación Taza de Arroz, la cual ha ayudado a un número incontable de personas con hambre aquí en la Arquidiócesis así como a través de nuestra nación y de nuestro mundo.



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Cuaresma 2010

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

¡Qué la gracia y la paz de nuestro Señor Jesucristo esté con ustedes!

A través de los solemnes cuarenta días de cuaresma la Iglesia misma se une cada año al misterio de la muerte y resurrección de Jesús. Nuestro deseo de conformarnos más plenamente a Cristo cada día es expresado durante esta temporada santa mediante actos de penitencia. Todos hemos sido hechos uno con Cristo a través del Bautismo. La Penitencia nos ofrece la oportunidad de permitir que la gracia santificante de este Sacramento se manifieste más completamente en nuestras vidas.

Los esfuerzos de reconciliación, la preocupación por la salvación de nuestro prójimo, la práctica de la caridad, el cuidado para los pobres, la oración, el ejercicio y defensa de la justicia y la perseverancia en la persecución por causa de la justicia son todos medios por los que podemos tomar nuestra cruz cada día y unirnos a Cristo más plenamente.

Los animo a acoger estas obras de amor de Dios y el prójimo durante los días de cuaresma con el fin de estar preparados para renovar sus promesas bautismales en Pascua y así ser más plenamente parte de la vida de Cristo y su Iglesia. En particular, yo recomiendo a todos ustedes la recepción del Sacramento de la Penitencia, por el cual nuestro Señor Jesucristo personalmente ofrece su misericordia y amor.

Sinceramente en cristo,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

[Por favor, comunique esta carta a los fieles en el fin de semana de febrero 13-14 del 2010.]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

February 28, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

In the life of the Church, Lent is all about facing the reality of sin in the light of the victory of Christ's Death and Resurrection.

Each one of us knows that we are called to acknowledge sin in our lives. At every Mass we admit this reality. In the *confiteor*, for example, we say clearly: "I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do...."

In his first Letter, Saint John says to us: "If we say, 'We are without sin,' we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, [God] is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing. If we say, 'We have not sinned,' we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 John 1:8-10).

Throughout the centuries of Christianity, Lent has always been a special time to acknowledge our sins, to ask God's pardon, and to resolve—with His help—not to sin again. In Lent we express deep sorrow for having offended God and our neighbor.

On Ash Wednesday we hear those powerful words: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." This is a call to repentance and to fidelity for us as individuals and for the entire community of the Church. We are invited to express this repentance and fidelity through practices that our Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us in the Gospels: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

With repentance for our sins we humbly ask the forgiveness of God, which comes to us through Christ. We also humbly ask the forgiveness of all those whom we have offended in any way. We likewise beg God to bring about reconciliation and healing in our community.

During this Lent we are especially conscious of the grave sins of sexual abuse committed against minors, in particular by members of the clergy. We experience the need to ask God's forgiveness repeatedly in our liturgy and to offer prayers of reparation for these sins and for all the sins of the world.

February 28, 2011
Dear Brothers and Sisters
Page Two

As we begin Lent, I invite the faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to join me for a penitential service, including the Stations of the Cross, in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul on the first Friday of Lent, March 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. We will pray for the forgiveness of all sins and for reconciliation with God and in the community. In our petitions we will ask for the healing of all victims, that through the power of God's grace sexual abuse will be effectively prevented, and that young people will always be respected and protected and be able to live the full measure of their human dignity as children of God without being abused by anyone.

In addition to this penitential service, I intend to meet next week on several occasions with our priests, who serve so faithfully, in order to pray with them and to assure them of my encouragement, my deep trust and my gratitude for their generous ministry to our people.

As we acknowledge the reality of sin in our own lives and in the community of the Church, we also proclaim the power of the Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ to overcome sin, to convert our hearts and the hearts of all sinners, and to help us walk in newness of life. In the words of Saint John: "If we acknowledge our sins, [God] is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing."

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

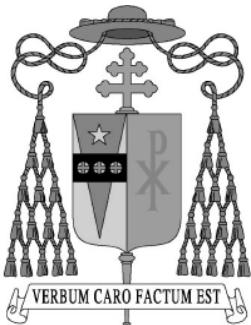
Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

FAST AND ABSTINENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE FOR LENT
2008

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

All are encouraged to participate in “Operation Rice Bowl,” which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world.



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

28 de febrero del 2011

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

¡La gracia y la paz de nuestro Señor Jesucristo sean con todos ustedes!

En la vida de la Iglesia, la Cuaresma es acerca de enfrentar la realidad del pecado a la luz de la victoria de la Muerte y Resurrección de Cristo.

Cada uno de nosotros sabe que estamos llamados a reconocer el pecado en nuestras vidas. En cada misa se admite esta realidad. En el *Confiteor*, por ejemplo, decimos claramente: «Yo confieso ante Dios todopoderoso y ante vosotros, hermanos y hermanas, que he pecado mucho de pensamiento, palabra, obra y omisión...».

En la primera carta, san Juan nos dice: «Si decimos que no tenemos pecado, nos estamos engañando a nosotros mismos, y la verdad no está en nosotros. Pero si confesamos nuestros pecados, él, que es fiel y justo, nos perdonará nuestros pecados y nos limpiará de toda maldad» (1 Juan 1, 8-10).

A lo largo de los siglos de cristianismo, la Cuaresma ha sido siempre un momento especial para reconocer nuestros pecados, para pedir perdón a Dios, y para resolver —con su ayuda— no volver a pecar. En la Cuaresma expresamos profundo pesar por haber ofendido a Dios y al prójimo.

El Miércoles de Ceniza se escuchan estas poderosas palabras: «Arrepiéntete y cree en el Evangelio». Éste es un llamado al arrepentimiento y fidelidad para nosotros como individuos y para toda la comunidad de la Iglesia. Se nos invita a expresar el arrepentimiento y la fidelidad a través de prácticas que nuestro Señor Jesucristo mismo nos ha enseñado en los Evangelios: la oración, el ayuno y la limosna.

Con el arrepentimiento de nuestros pecados pedimos humildemente el perdón de Dios, que viene a nosotros a través de Cristo. También pedimos humildemente el perdón de todos aquellos a quienes hemos ofendido de alguna manera. Nosotros también le pedimos a Dios para lograr la reconciliación y la sanación de nuestra comunidad.

Durante esta Cuaresma nosotros estamos especialmente conscientes de los pecados graves de los abusos sexuales cometidos contra menores, en particular por miembros del clero. Experimentamos la necesidad de pedir el perdón de Dios repetidamente en nuestra liturgia y de ofrecer oraciones de reparación por estos pecados y por todos los pecados del mundo.

February 28, 2011
Dear Brothers and Sisters
Page Two

Al comenzar la Cuaresma, yo invito a los fieles de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia a unirse a mí para un servicio de penitencia que incluirá las Estaciones de la Cruz, en la Basílica Catedral SS. Pedro y Pablo en el primer viernes de Cuaresma, 11 de marzo del 2011 a las 7:00 p.m. Vamos a orar por el perdón de los pecados y la reconciliación con Dios y en la comunidad. En nuestras peticiones pediremos por la sanación de todas las víctimas, que a través del poder de Dios el abuso sexual sea eficazmente prevenido, y que los jóvenes siempre sean respetados y protegidos y sean capaces de vivir la plenitud de su dignidad humana como hijos de Dios sin ser abusados por nadie.

Además de este servicio penitencial, tengo la intención de reunirme la próxima semana en varias ocasiones con nuestros sacerdotes, que sirven con tanta fidelidad, para orar con ellos y darles aliento, mi confianza profunda y mi gratitud por su ministerio generoso a nuestro pueblo.

Al reconocer la realidad del pecado en nuestras propias vidas y en la comunidad de la Iglesia, también proclamamos el poder de la Muerte y Resurrección de nuestro Señor Jesucristo para vencer el pecado, para convertir nuestros corazones y los corazones de todos los pecadores, y para que nos ayude a caminar en una vida nueva. En las palabras de san Juan: « ... si confesamos nuestros pecados, él, que es fiel y justo, nos perdonará nuestros pecados y nos limpiará de toda maldad».

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Lent 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

The season of Lent invites us to turn from sin, to do penance through prayer, fasting and almsgiving and to prepare for the renewal of the promises of our Baptism. It is in Baptism that we are immersed in the saving mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

In the beautiful story of the *Samaritan Woman at the Well*, which we will hear proclaimed during Mass on the third Sunday of Lent, the Lord Jesus confronts this Samaritan woman with the truth about herself and the gift he has to offer her. It is a truth that offers hope, that offers salvation. It does not condemn, nor does it close the door on the possibility of conversion and the acceptance of the Lord's loving mercy.

The very same gift is offered to us during these extraordinary days of prayer, penance and preparation. Through attentive listening to the Word of God, through the devout reception of the sacraments, especially Penance and the Eucharist, and through sharing with those who are in need, we have the opportunity to avail ourselves more fully of the loving mercy of God. In doing so, we encounter Christ, who shows us the face of God his Father and teaches us the truth about ourselves.

We humbly acknowledge that only in Christ do we find salvation and peace.

May the Lord bless your efforts to begin this holy season with devotion and fervor.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Cardinal Justin Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

[Please communicate the contents of this letter to the faithful during the weekend of February 2-3, 2008.]



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

July 19, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

This morning it was my great privilege to announce to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia that our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has named Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., the 13th Bishop and 9th Archbishop of Philadelphia.

At the same time I announced that the Holy Father has named me the Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese until Archbishop Chaput's installation on September 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. In the interim I will serve with all the responsibilities of Archbishop. After the installation, I will begin my time of retirement in the Diocese of Knoxville, where I have been invited to live.

Archbishop Chaput is a bishop who will truly love you and faithfully preach the Gospel to you. He will work diligently to address the special needs of the Archdiocese at this time. Support him with your prayers and deep faith, so that the mission of the Church to proclaim the kingdom of God may advance steadily. Pray also for our auxiliary bishops and priests, who serve with such generosity and fidelity, that they may be fruitful collaborators with our new Archbishop.

For me, these past eight years as Archbishop of Philadelphia have been a time of great grace. Your faith and generous spirit have sustained me in countless ways and will continue to be a source of inspiration to me. I have been blessed to have encountered so many of you in my pastoral visits to our parishes, schools, hospitals, and other institutions. I am especially grateful to those of you—deacons, religious, and lay faithful—who have assisted me in my ministry in different ways in the Archdiocesan Office Center, on the many Archdiocesan boards and committees, and in our parishes and institutions.

As Archbishop, I have endeavored to serve you faithfully by presenting through my words and actions the person of Jesus Christ. If I have offended any one in any way, I am deeply sorry. I apologize for any weaknesses on my part in representing Christ and His Church worthily and effectively.

I assure you of my continued love and prayers and a special remembrance always at the altar as I celebrate Mass. Please pray for me that our Lord Jesus Christ may bless my years of retirement and make them fruitful in the service of His Church.

Asking the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, of Saint John Neumann, and of Saint Katharine Drexel for you all, I remain

Sincerely,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Apostolic Administrator



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

March 21, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.” These words spoken during the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday remind us of the call we receive each Lent. It is the call to repentance and renewed fidelity to Jesus Christ that reverberates in the Church throughout the world. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, this call has a special meaning for us this Lent.

Since the release of the Grand Jury Report, the pain caused by the sin of the sexual abuse of minors by some clergy has again made itself felt in our midst. This is especially true for the victims of this abuse who experience anew the pain of their original suffering. We too share in this pain as we acknowledge their suffering and our own sorrow that such a sin was committed within the community of the Church.

Recently the priests of the Archdiocese and I met to discuss the issues of the Grand Jury Report. These meetings were extremely helpful to me since from our discussions I have been able to understand even more the effects of that Report on our priests and on so many of you, the faithful of the Archdiocese. I am grateful to the priests for their candor in discussing this situation and for their concern for the needs of all of you whom they serve. Having heard our priests, I wish to renew the expression of my sorrow that victims of abuse again feel this pain and that the whole community of priests and people also suffer with them in this heavy burden.

In the context of Lent, I ask your continued encouragement and support for all our faithful priests who so generously serve in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. I also ask you to join me in praying for the healing of all victims and the community itself, in praying that all of us embrace conversion of heart and reach that holiness of life to which Jesus Himself calls us. This is our Lenten journey. This is the journey we make together. In this formidable challenge, in this moment in the history of the Archdiocese, we rely on God’s help to turn away from sin, to be faithful to the Gospel and to know the healing that Jesus Christ alone gives us through His Cross and Resurrection.

With confidence we entrust these hopes and prayers to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of His Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

21 de marzo del 2011

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

«Arrepiéntete y cree en el Evangelio.» Estas palabras proclamadas a nosotros durante la distribución de las cenizas el Miércoles de Ceniza nos recuerdan la llamada que recibimos cada cuaresma. Es la llamada al arrepentimiento y a la renovada fidelidad a Jesucristo, que resuena en la Iglesia a través del mundo. En la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia, esta llamada tiene un significado especial para nosotros en esta cuaresma.

Desde la publicación del Informe del Gran Jurado, el dolor causado por este pecado de abuso sexual de menores por algunos sacerdotes de nuevo se ha hecho sentir entre nosotros. Esto es especialmente cierto para las víctimas de este abuso que han experimentado otra vez el dolor de su sufrimiento original. Nosotros también compartimos en este dolor como reconocemos su sufrimiento y nuestro propio dolor de que este pecado se cometió dentro de la comunidad de la Iglesia.

Recientemente los sacerdotes de la Arquidiócesis y yo nos reunimos para hablar de los temas del Informe del Gran Jurado. Estas reuniones fueron de gran ayuda para mí ya que por nuestras conversaciones he podido entender aún más los efectos del informe en los sacerdotes y en muchos de ustedes, los fieles de la Arquidiócesis. Estoy agradecido de los sacerdotes por su franqueza al examinar esta situación y por su preocupación por las necesidades de todos ustedes a quienes ellos sirven. Habiendo escuchado a nuestros sacerdotes, deseo renovar la expresión de mi pena que las víctimas del abuso otra vez sienten este dolor y que la comunidad entera de sacerdotes y los fieles también sufren con ellos en esta carga pesada.

En el contexto de la cuaresma, yo les pido su constante aliento y apoyo para todos nuestros fieles sacerdotes que tan generosamente sirven en la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia. Además, les pido que se unan a mí en continuar orando por la sanación de todas las víctimas y de la comunidad misma, orando para que todos nosotros aceptemos la conversión de corazón y alcancemos la santidad en la vida para la cual Jesús mismo nos llama. Ésta es nuestra jornada cuaresmal. Ésta es la jornada que hacemos juntos. En este formidable desafío, en este momento en la historia de la Arquidiócesis, contamos con la ayuda de Dios para alejarnos del pecado, para ser fieles al Evangelio y para conocer la sanación que Jesucristo sólo nos da por medio de su Cruz y Resurrección..

Con confianza encomendamos estas esperanzas y oraciones a María, la Madre de Jesús y la Madre de su Iglesia.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia



VERBUM CARO FACTUM EST

Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

19 de julio del 2011

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

¡Qué la gracia y paz de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo estén con todos ustedes!

Esta mañana ha sido mi gran privilegio anunciar a la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia que el Santo Padre ha nombrado al arzobispo Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., el décimo tercer obispo y noveno arzobispo de Filadelfia.

Al mismo tiempo yo anuncié que el Santo Padre me ha nombrado Administrador Apostólico de la Arquidiócesis hasta la instalación del arzobispo Chaput el 8 de septiembre a las 2:00 p.m. en la Catedral Basílica de San Pedro y San Pablo. En el ínterin voy a servir con todas las responsabilidades de arzobispo. Después de la instalación, yo comenzaré mi jubilación en la Diócesis de Knoxville, donde he sido invitado a vivir.

El arzobispo Chaput es un obispo que realmente los amará y fielmente les predicará el Evangelio. Él trabajará con diligencia para atender las necesidades especiales de la Arquidiócesis en este momento. Apóyelo con sus oraciones y su fe profunda, de modo que la misión de la Iglesia de proclamar el reino de Dios pueda avanzar constantemente. Oren también por nuestros obispos auxiliares y sacerdotes, que sirven con generosidad y fidelidad, para que sean colaboradores fructíferos con nuestro nuevo arzobispo.

Para mí, estos últimos ocho años como arzobispo de Filadelfia, han sido una época de gran gracia. Su fe y su espíritu generoso me han sostenido en innumerables formas y seguirán siendo una fuente de inspiración para mí. Tengo suerte de haberme encontrado con muchos de ustedes en mis visitas pastorales a las parroquias, escuelas, hospitales y otras instituciones. Estoy especialmente agradecido a todos ustedes —diáconos, religiosos y fieles laicos— que me han ayudado en mi ministerio de diferentes maneras en el Centro de Oficina de la Arquidiócesis, en los muchos consejos y comités de la Arquidiócesis, y en nuestras parroquias e instituciones.

Como arzobispo, me he esforzado para servirles fielmente al presentar a través de mis palabras y acciones la persona de Jesucristo. Si he ofendido a alguien de alguna manera, lo lamento profundamente. Yo pido disculpa por cualquier debilidad de mi parte en representar a Cristo y su Iglesia digna y eficazmente.

Yo les aseguro mi continuo aprecio y oraciones, y los recordaré siempre de forma especial en el altar cuando celebre la misa. Por favor, oren por mí para que nuestro Señor Jesucristo bendiga mis años de jubilación y los haga fructificar en el servicio de su Iglesia.

Pidiendo la intercesión de nuestra Santísima Madre María, de san Juan Neumann, y de santa Catalina Drexel para todos ustedes, permanezco

Sinceramente,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardenal Justin Rigali
Administrador Apostólico



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH:

Renewing Our Commitment to Child Protection, Victim Assistance, and Priestly Integrity

Bulletin No. 4

June 2011

Introduction

This is the fourth in a series of periodic bulletin inserts developed by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to provide information to parishioners. Each bulletin will focus on action steps the Archdiocese has taken to advance the protection of children, assist victims, and ensure the integrity of the priesthood.

Child Protective Services Law (CPSL)

- The Pennsylvania CPSL defines mandated reporters as persons who, as a result of their employment, occupation or profession, come into regular contact with a child and thus are legally responsible to report suspected child abuse.
- Persons required to report include, but are not limited to, any licensed physician, medical examiner, coroner, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, member of the clergy, school administrator, school teacher, school nurse, social services worker, or any other child-care or foster-care worker, mental health professional, peace officer or law enforcement official.
- The CPSL requires the reporting of suspected child abuse by mandated reporters to the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare's **ChildLine at 1-800-932-0313**.
- The law defines child abuse as any of the following involving a child under the age of eighteen:
 - Any recent act or failure to act which causes non-accidental serious physical injury;
 - An act or failure to act which causes non-accidental serious mental injury or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation;
 - Any recent act, failure to act or series of such acts or failures to act which create an imminent risk of serious physical injury, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation;
 - Serious physical neglect constituting prolonged or repeated lack of supervision or the failure to provide the essentials of life, including adequate medical care, which endangers a child's life or development or impairs a child's functioning.
- The CPSL allows reports of suspected child abuse to occur in one of two ways:
 - the mandated reporter calls ChildLine directly or;
 - the organization or agency where the mandated reporter works can identify a specific person to be the party legally responsible to make the report.
- The law requires that mandated reporters provide their contact information. The law, however, protects the identity of mandated reporters.
- Mandated reporters who act in good faith are afforded civil and criminal immunity.
- Failure to fulfill the legal obligation to report suspected abuse can result in the arrest and prosecution of the mandated reporter.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

- Creating a network for the protection of children and the prevention of child abuse is a shared community responsibility involving every member of the Church – each of us has a role to play.
- For some members of our church community, however, there is a greater expectation about their role in reporting suspected child abuse to ChildLine, Pennsylvania's toll-free child abuse hotline. These persons, under Pennsylvania law, are known as mandated reporters.
- Statistics illustrate how important mandated reporters are to the protection of children. Last year, mandated reporters in Pennsylvania reported 18,972 cases of suspected child abuse. This figure represents approximately 77 percent of all reports made to ChildLine.
- Pennsylvania law does not require that mandated reporters be trained in their role and responsibilities. Nevertheless, the Archdiocese recognizes that quality training is among the tools mandated reporters need to fulfill their duty in protecting children, ensuring children are safe, and that needed interventions are made.

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CONTINUED:

Bulletin No. 4

- In 2011, the Protect Our Children Committee (www.protectpachildren.org), Pennsylvania's leading statewide coalition dedicated to preventing child abuse and achieving child welfare reforms, released the findings of a survey completed by more than 1,200 mandated reporters. That survey revealed that 14 percent of the responding mandated reporters had never been trained and another 24 percent were trained prior to significant changes made to state law and enacted in 2006.

Archdiocesan Policy

- Archdiocesan policy states that mandated reporters are all clergy, as well as all employees, parish and school staff who come into regular contact with children.
- The Archdiocese recognizes the important role volunteers play in the care, instruction, and protection of our children. It considers CYO coaches, catechists and other volunteers coming into regular contact with a child as mandatory reporters.
- Regular contact with children is defined by the Archdiocese as contact that occurs during the course of ministry and paid or volunteer work at least once per week.
- Archdiocesan policy directs all reporters, whether mandated by law or obligated by Archdiocesan Policy, to resolve any doubt in favor of a report.
- Archdiocesan policy requires that clergy, staff and volunteers who suspect child abuse must immediately notify the person in charge (e.g., pastor, principal, director of religious education, administrator).
- The person in charge must immediately make the report to:
 - Pennsylvania Department of Welfare's ChildLine at 1-800-932-0303.
 - The Archdiocesan Office for Child and Youth Protection at 1-888-800-8780.
- Nothing precludes the initial mandated reporter from also calling ChildLine.

Office for Child and Youth Protection – New Mandatory Reporter Training Program

- Recognizing the essential role mandated reporters play in creating a network of prevention and protection for children in the care of the Archdiocese, a new Mandatory Reporter Training Program has been initiated by the Office for Child and Youth Protection. This training program is in addition to, as well as separate and distinct from, the Safe Environment Training already required for all clergy, staff and volunteers working on behalf of the Archdiocese.
- From June through November 2011, a series of 90 trainings will be conducted. Over 24,000 clergy, staff and volunteers will attend these trainings. Employees will attend a three-hour training and volunteers will attend a one-hour training.
- The training is designed to provide all clergy, staff and volunteers who are mandated reporters with an effective and proven training intended to:
 - Identify the signs and symptoms of child abuse;
 - Offer effective means to respond to children who disclose they have been abused and to minimize the trauma a child experiences;
 - Foster an understanding of and comfort level with the required steps, under state law and Archdiocesan policy, so that suspected child abuse is properly reported.
- The Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) in Bucks County (www.novabucks.org) will conduct the new training titled *Mandated Reporter Training: Knowing Your Role in the Protection of Our Children*.
- NOVA's training has been well received across the Commonwealth and meets standards set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Office of Child Development and Early Learning.
- Independent evaluations have shown that participants rate this training "very highly" and state that they are better prepared to be able to identify the signs and indicators of all types of abuse as well as to make a report to authorities.

All clergy, Archdiocesan employees and volunteers must register for the new Mandatory Reporter Training Program by going to <http://bit.ly/AOPMandatoryReporterTraining>. They are encouraged to register as soon as possible to obtain the training date of their choice. Training for all school personnel will be conducted separately during the last week in October 2011.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

BULLETIN BLURB EXAMPLES

JOIN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT MARRIAGE

Over the years and across cultures and very different religious beliefs, marriage has been and still is the foundation of the family. The family, in turn, is the basic unit of society. Thus, marriage is a personal relationship with public significance.

Courts in nearby states have redefined marriage as something other than a relationship between one man and one woman. Precisely because the family is the primary cell of human society we all must be involved in establishing the definition of marriage which reflects the values of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Legislature is considering SB 1250, which will amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and will prevent civil unions, which are in effect the same as marriage. Your state representative and state senator need to hear from you that marriage makes a difference. Log on to www.pacatholic.org to send a message telling your legislators to support the marriage amendment, and check out www.youranswermatters.org for more ideas about how you can get involved in the effort to protect and preserve marriage.



MARRIAGE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Marriage is the intimate union and equal partnership of one man and one woman. It comes to us from the hand of God, who created male and female in his image, so that they might become one body and might be fertile and multiply (See Genesis chapters 1 & 2).

The protection of marriage is an affirmation of the fundamental benefits that traditional marriage has on society – the protection of the family, and in particular, children. Protecting marriage is a refusal to abandon an institution known to be beneficial.

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PENNSYLVANIA MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

The Pennsylvania Legislature is considering SB 1250, which will amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and will prevent civil unions, which are in effect the same as marriage. Your state representative and state senator need to hear from you that marriage makes a difference. Log on to www.pacatholic.org to send a message telling your legislators to support the marriage amendment, and check out www.youranswermatters.org for more ideas about how you can get involved in the effort to protect and preserve marriage.



PROTECTING MARRIAGE

Twenty-seven states have already amended their constitutions in order to define marriage as between one man and one woman. It is time for Pennsylvania to follow suit and give the people of this Commonwealth the opportunity to determine how they would like to define marriage.

Pennsylvania law already states that marriage is between one man and one woman, but in Iowa, a judge ruled their state's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional.

Pennsylvania cannot avoid this debate. Therefore, we must encourage the state legislature to allow voters to decide the fate of marriage before a judge determines it for us.

The Pennsylvania Legislature is considering SB 1250, which will amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and will prevent civil unions, which are in effect the same as marriage. Your state representative and state senator need to hear from you that marriage makes a difference. Log on to www.pacatholic.org to send a message telling your legislators to support the marriage amendment, and check out www.youranswermatters.org for more ideas about how you can get involved in the effort to protect and preserve marriage.



MARRIAGE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Permanency, exclusivity, and faithfulness are essential to marriage because they foster and protect the two equal purposes of marriage. These two purposes are growth in mutual love between the spouses (unitive) and the generation and education of children (procreative).

The family arises from marriage. Parents, children and family members form what is called a domestic church or church of the home. This is the primary unit of the Church – the place where the Church lives in the daily love, care, hospitality, sacrifice, forgiveness, prayer and faith of ordinary families. Marriage is a personal relationship with public significance.

The Pennsylvania Legislature is considering SB 1250, which will amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and will prevent civil unions, which are in effect the same as marriage. Your state representative and state senator need to hear from you that marriage makes a difference. Log on to www.pacatholic.org to send a message telling your legislators to support the marriage amendment, and check out www.youranswermatters.org for more ideas about how you can get involved in the effort to protect and preserve marriage.



PENNSYLVANIA MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

Senate Bill 1250 - the Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment – is being considered by the state legislature. The bill aims to make this amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution:

No union other than a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage or the functional equivalent of marriage by the Commonwealth.

Your state representative and state senator need to hear from you that marriage makes a difference. Visit, call, write a letter, or log on to www.pacatholic.org to send a message telling your legislators to support the marriage amendment.



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE – WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 – 202-541-3103 – FAX 202-541-3166

ACTUALIZACIÓN 11/03/10

URGENTE: VOLANTE DE USCCB PARA BOLETINES EN TODA LA NACIÓN

¡Detenga el financiamiento de abortos en la reforma del sistema de salud!

Proteja la conciencia

Garantice una cobertura asequible

Permita a los inmigrantes adquirir seguros de salud privados

Como promotores durante largo tiempo de la reforma del sistema de salud, los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos continúan sosteniendo, desde el punto de vista moral, que una verdadera reforma debe proteger la vida, la dignidad, la conciencia y la salud de todos, especialmente de los pobres y vulnerables. La reforma del sistema de salud deberá brindar acceso a servicios de salud asequibles y de buena calidad para todos, y no avanzar una agenda que promueva el aborto en nuestro país. Una reforma verdadera al sistema de salud está siendo obstaculizada por los que insisten en revertir la política que ha tenido amplio apoyo de no financiar abortos con fondos federales, y no por aquellos que simplemente luchan por preservar esas protecciones aceptadas hace mucho tiempo.

- El 7 de noviembre, la Cámara de Representantes aprobó una importante reforma del sistema de salud que reafirma la política esencial, con amplio respaldo desde hace mucho tiempo, de rehusar fondos federales para abortos electivos; el proyecto incluye medidas positivas en cuanto a la asequibilidad y sobre los inmigrantes.
- El 24 de diciembre, el Senado rechazó esta política y aprobó una versión del proyecto que autorizaría fondos federales para ayudar a subsidiar y promover planes de salud que cubran abortos electivos. Todos los que adquieran estos planes deberán pagar los abortos de otros mediante un pago independiente destinado exclusivamente a los abortos. Y los créditos para ayudar a las familias de muy bajos ingresos a adquirir planes privados en un Health Insurance Exchange (Bolsa de Seguros Médicos) son insuficientes y dejarían a estas familias en situación de vulnerabilidad financiera.
- Fuera del contexto del aborto, ambos proyectos carecen de adecuada protección de la conciencia para los prestadores de cuidados de salud, planes o empleadores.
- Ahora los líderes del Congreso están tratando de ver de qué manera las normas de funcionamiento de la Cámara de Representantes y el Senado podrían permitir que se apruebe finalmente una versión modificada que logre conciliar las que votaron ambas cámaras.

ACCIÓN: Contacte a su representante y senadores hoy, por e-mail, teléfono o FAX.

- **Para enviar un correo electrónico instantáneo con un mensaje ya preparado al Congreso, vaya a www.usccb.org/action.**
- Llame a la central del Capitolio: 202-224-3121, o a las oficinas locales de su congresista. La información de contacto se halla en los sitios web de los miembros del Congreso, en www.house.gov y www.senate.gov.

MENSAJE—CÁMARA:

“Me complace que el proyecto de ley de reforma del sistema de salud aprobado por la Cámara mantenga la política contra el financiamiento federal del aborto que se ha venido respaldando por mucho tiempo. En cambio, las disposiciones sobre financiamiento del aborto en el actual proyecto del ley del Senado, no modificado, tienen defectos graves y son inaceptables. Le pido que trabaje a favor de mantener estas disposiciones esenciales contra el financiamiento de abortos, por incluir plena protección de conciencia y garantizar que los servicios de salud sean accesibles y asequibles para todos. Le exhorto a que, a menos que se reúnan estos criterios, se oponga al proyecto final”.

MENSAJE—SENADO:

“Estoy profundamente decepcionado de que el proyecto de reforma de salud que fue aprobado por el Senado sin modificaciones, no mantuviera la política aceptada por mucho tiempo contra el financiamiento federal del aborto ni incluyera adecuada protección de conciencia. Le pido que apoye disposiciones esenciales contra el financiamiento de abortos, similares a las contenidas en el proyecto aprobado por la Cámara. Incluya la plena protección de conciencia y garantice que los servicios de salud sean accesibles y asequibles para todos. Le exhorto a que, a menos que se reúnan estos criterios, se oponga al proyecto final”.

¿CUÁNDO?: Las votaciones en la Cámara de Representantes podrán ser en cualquier momento.

¡Actúe hoy! ¡Gracias!



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3103 • FAX 202-541-3166

USCCB NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT/ACTION ALERT

Updated 3-11-2010

Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care Reform!

Protect Conscience

Ensure Affordable Health Coverage

Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should provide access to affordable and quality health care for all, and not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country. Genuine health care reform is being blocked by those who insist on reversing widely supported policies against federal funding of abortion and plans which include abortion, not by those working simply to preserve these longstanding protections.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants.
- On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion. And the affordability credits for very low income families purchasing private plans in a Health Insurance Exchange are inadequate and would leave families financially vulnerable.
- Outside the abortion context, neither bill has adequate conscience protection for health care providers, plans or employers.
- Congressional leaders are now trying to figure out how the rules of the House and Senate could allow the final passage of a modified bill that would satisfy disagreements between House and Senate versions.

ACTION: Contact your Representative and Senators today by e-mail, phone or FAX.

- To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE – HOUSE:

"I am pleased that the House health care bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. On the other hand, the provisions on abortion funding in the current un-amended Senate health care bill are seriously deficient and unacceptable. I urge you to work to uphold essential provisions against abortion funding, to include full conscience protection and to ensure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. I urge you to oppose any bill unless and until these criteria are met."

MESSAGE – SENATE:

"I am deeply disappointed that the current un-amended Senate health care bill fails to maintain the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion and does not include adequate protection for conscience. I urge you to support essential provisions against abortion funding, similar to those in the House bill. Include full conscience protection and ensure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. I urge you to oppose any bill unless and until these criteria are met."

WHEN: Votes in the House and Senate are expected at any time. **Act today!**

Thank You!

►ACTION ALERT◄

The State Senate is now considering SB 1250 The Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment

- Pennsylvania is facing the debate over same-sex marriage right now. The question is: will the people of Pennsylvania decide how to define marriage or will a judge?

Twenty-seven states have already amended their constitutions in order to define marriage as between one man and one woman. It is time for Pennsylvania to follow suit and give the people of this Commonwealth the opportunity to determine how they would like to define marriage. Pennsylvania law already states that marriage is between one man and one woman, but in Iowa, a judge ruled that state's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional. Courts in other states ordered same-sex marriage, also called civil unions. Courts in Pennsylvania could do the same.

Pennsylvania cannot avoid this debate. Therefore, the voters should be allowed to decide the fate of marriage by amending the state constitution before a judge makes that determination. SB 1250 - the Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment - starts the process to put the question about marriage on the ballot.

TIPS FOR LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

- Limit your communication to one specific legislative subject.
- Ask the official to tell you his or her position on the matter.
- Speak or write in your own words.
- Be brief.
- Explain why you are taking your particular position.
- Do not assume that your official is well informed about a given issue.
- Refer to bills by number or popular title (e.g. - Senate Bill 1250, the Marriage Protection Amendment).
- Ask for a response.
- Be timely.
- Be accurate and courteous.
- Always keep copies of correspondence.

Visits, phone calls, letters and e-mails from constituents can have a great influence on the vote of a legislator. Take a minute or two to voice your opinion in support of marriage.

Log on to www.pacatholic.org to look up contact information for your legislator or send him or her an e-mail in just a few clicks.

- **Allowance of same-sex marriage permeates every aspect of society.**

Redefining marriage means that all state-sanctioned activities will have to accommodate the new law. In Massachusetts, for example, birth certificates now list "parent A" and "parent B" instead of "mother" and "father." Also, starting in elementary school, children are being taught that two moms or two dads are the same as one mom and one dad.

In New Jersey, due to the state's allowance of same-sex marriage -- which they call civil unions -- mayors and judges refusing to conduct civil union marriage ceremonies risk prosecution and a Methodist church group there lost its state tax exempt status for refusing to allow civil union marriage ceremonies on its property.

- **Marriage makes a difference.**

Traditional marriage provides fundamental benefits to society- mainly, the protection of family and in particular, children. Research demonstrates that one mother and one father joined in a stable marriage is the best possible situation for raising children. Certainly, not every family fits this model, but redefining marriage and creating state-sanctioned motherless and fatherless families discounts everything we know to be true about marriage.

In countries that allow same-sex marriage, marriage rates have declined while out-of-wedlock births have skyrocketed. Once marriage ceases to be about binding mothers and fathers together for the good of their children, the desire to marry gradually disappears.

Defending marriage as the union between one man and one woman is best for society and is worth protecting.

**Contact your state legislator and ask him or her to please support SB 1250
The Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment**



February 2008

Published by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic Bishops. For more information, contact PCC at PO Box 2835, Harrisburg, PA 17105 717-238-9613, staff@pacatholic.org, or log on to www.pacatholic.org.

Know the Positions of the Candidates

PA Governor

As part of an effort to educate citizens about candidates and their positions on issues important to Catholic voters, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) sent a questionnaire to candidates for statewide office to give them the opportunity to make their positions known on key issues. Both candidates for governor also participated in interviews about their views with PCC staff. More questions and answers and full interview transcripts are posted on www.pacatholic.org. The answers to the questionnaire are listed here for information purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office.



DEMOCRAT
Dan Onorato



REPUBLICAN
Tom Corbett

What is your position on legislation that would provide direct grants to parents to choose the schools that they believe are best suited for their children, including nonpublic schools?

DID NOT INDICATE
I support, and would expand, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit.

SUPPORT
Funding should follow the student through avenues such as vouchers.

Do you support or oppose embryonic stem cell research?

DID NOT INDICATE
I oppose the creation of embryos for stem cell research.

OPPOSE
Promising research can be pursued without creating or destroying embryos.

What is your position on amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman?

OPPOSE
I support the current law, which includes this definition.

SUPPORT
A Constitutional amendment would help safeguard marriage against an alternative agenda.

What is your position on providing **legal protection for unborn children** from the moment of conception if Roe v. Wade is overturned? If support, what exceptions, if any, would you require?

As governor, I would support Pennsylvania's current law.

I oppose legalized abortion, except when the mother's life is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Do you support or oppose legislation that would add state restrictions to existing federal prohibitions concerning the hiring of undocumented immigrants or the provision of healthcare or government services to the undocumented?

DID NOT INDICATE
This issue is best addressed at the federal level.

SUPPORT
Pennsylvania has a responsibility to ensure eligibility of all participants.

What is your position on the death penalty in Pennsylvania?

SUPPORT

SUPPORT
It's needed as a disincentive and penalty for heinous crimes.

What is your position on restoring state funding to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program for the aged, blind and disabled Pennsylvanians?

SUPPORT
I support this restoration once the state's financial condition allows.

SUPPORT
Supporting targeted populations should be prioritized while reducing overall spending.

What is your position on legislation requiring employers to provide employee benefits to which they are morally opposed, for example, mandating coverage for contraceptives or benefits to same-sex partners of employees?

DID NOT INDICATE
I would consider on a case-by-case basis with religious exemptions.

OPPOSE
I oppose mandates contrary to the moral conscience of employers.

What is your position on government regulation of religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers?

Religious childcare/pre-K providers should follow state standards for health/safety, but be free to determine their own educational content based on their faith tradition.

Religious childcare and pre-K providers should be free from government regulation. Providers should develop services appropriate for their faith community.

Do you support or oppose legislation that would restrict taxpayer funding of abortion in Pennsylvania's health insurance exchange created by the federal health care law?

SUPPORT
I support the longstanding restriction against using public funds.

SUPPORT
PA taxpayers should not be required to fund abortion.



Know the Positions of the Candidates

U.S. Senator

As part of an effort to educate citizens about candidates and their positions on issues important to Catholic voters, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) sent a questionnaire to candidates for statewide office to give them the opportunity to make their positions known on key issues. Both candidates for U.S. Senator also participated in interviews about their views with PCC staff. More questions and answers and full interview transcripts are posted on www.pacatholic.org. The answers to the questionnaire are listed here for information purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office.



DEMOCRAT
Joe Sestak



REPUBLICAN
Pat Toomey

Do you support or oppose legislation to continue and expand current federal laws that provide educational benefits to students and teachers in private and religious schools on an equitable basis in comparison to the benefits received by public school students and teachers?

DID NOT RESPOND

SUPPORT*

** I have been a long term advocate for expanding parents' choice in schools through different funding mechanisms.*

Do you support or oppose legislation that would permit undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a number of years, have worked and built equities in our country, and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?

DID NOT RESPOND

OPPOSE*

** I support higher levels of legal immigration but oppose granting legal status to those who have broken our laws.*

Will you support or oppose significant annual increases in poverty-focused development assistance to reduce global poverty and increase the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) contributed in foreign aid?

DID NOT RESPOND

OPPOSE*

** Our perilous budget situation does not allow for this.*

Do you support or oppose legislation that would amend the new federal health care law to clearly prohibit funding for abortions in federally qualified health clinics and coverage for abortions in high-risk insurance pools?

DID NOT RESPOND

SUPPORT

Do you support or oppose legislation to prevent federal agencies and states that receive federal funds from discriminating against health care providers who do not perform or participate in abortions (Hyde-Weldon Amendment)?

DID NOT RESPOND

SUPPORT

Do you support or oppose embryonic stem cell research?

DID NOT RESPOND

OPPOSE

Do you support or oppose legislation that would guarantee comprehensive freedom of conscience for health care providers and health care institutions?

DID NOT RESPOND

SUPPORT

Do you support or oppose efforts to pass legislation (i.e., the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that would make sexual orientation and gender identity or expression protected classes that are equivalent to other protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.)?

DID NOT RESPOND

OPPOSE

Do you support or oppose the overturning of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)?

DID NOT RESPOND

OPPOSE



CARTA PASTORAL LLAMADOS A LA CONVERSIÓN Y A LA SANTIDAD

Muy queridos hermanos y hermanas en nuestro Señor Jesucristo,

Al comenzar mi octavo año como el Arzobispo de Filadelfia, estoy lleno de una profunda gratitud a Dios Omnipotente por las innumerables bendiciones que ha conferido a nuestra Iglesia local. Estas bendiciones me son diariamente evidentes y encuentran su expresión en todos ustedes: los obispos, sacerdotes, diáconos, religiosos, y laicos de nuestra Arquidiócesis.

Tengo presente las palabras del Evangelio según San Juan, que sirven también como mi lema episcopal—*Verbum caro factum est—la Palabra se hizo Carne* (Juan 1,14). El Hijo de Dios tomó nuestra carne, nuestra humanidad como la suya, para que pudiéramos compartir en su divinidad. Ésta es la gran llamada del cristiano: ser unido a Jesucristo y compartir en su misión. Es una llamada que encuentra expresión en cada tiempo y lugar, incluyendo el nuestro. Es la llamada a la conversión y a la santidad.

Como el Arzobispo de Filadelfia, les escribo ahora para informarles de las iniciativas pastorales que están en marcha en nuestra Arquidiócesis, las cuales encuentran sus ímpetus en la llamada a la conversión y a la santidad. También, quisiera confirmar mis prioridades como el Pastor de esta Iglesia local para asegurar que somos fieles a la misión que nos ha sido confiada por Jesucristo.

La llamada a la conversión y a la santidad se halla en el centro de la historia de nuestra gran Arquidiócesis. Hace solamente dos años celebramos el Bicentenario de nuestra Iglesia local. Haciéndolo así se nos presentó la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre nuestra rica herencia. Nos recordaron la fidelidad de tantos sacerdotes, religiosos, y fieles laicos que habían aceptado como suya la misión de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Diariamente se nos recuerda de esta historia en maneras incontables: por las numerosas parroquias que construyeron y sirvieron; por la educación católica, sobre todo en nuestro sistema escolar de enseñanza primaria y secundaria; por el papel supremamente providencial desempeñado por el Seminario San Carlos Borroméo; y por la inmensa obra de caridad realizada entre nosotros por las instituciones, agencias, y programas de los Servicios Católicos Humanos (*Catholic Human Services*).

Nuestro año Bicentenario fue un tiempo lleno de gracia para la Arquidiócesis. El mismo acto de celebrar historia no le deja a nadie una simple nostalgia, sin embargo la necesidad, pone también en claro relieve los desafíos y las bendiciones del presente momento y la importancia de mirar hacia «un futuro lleno de esperanza» (Jeremías 29, 11), para que nuestra propia fe pueda ser celebrada continua y fructuosamente para la presente y cada nueva generación que vendrá.

De hecho, la fidelidad de las generaciones antecedentes no nos hace satisfechos en nuestra fe, sino que nos obliga a comprometernos otra vez a esa fe y a reconocer nuestro propio lugar en la historia. Por lo tanto, la llamada a la conversión y a la santidad asume una urgencia para que continuemos viviendo esta rica herencia trasmitiéndola activamente. Nuestra parte en la misión de Cristo, entonces, es un perfecto recibir, vivir, y transmitir la fe que nos ha sido dada.

Aunque la llamada a la conversión y a la santidad es universal y forma parte del tejido de cada tiempo y lugar, cada generación está enfrentada a desafíos particulares a su propio tiempo. Hoy día soy intensamente consciente de los desafíos enfrentados por nuestra gente viviendo su fe. También, tengo plena conciencia de los desafíos que enfrenta la institución de la Iglesia, desafíos que enfrentan nuestras parroquias, nuestras escuelas católicas, nuestros servicios de caridad y tantas otras entidades de la Iglesia.

Algunos de estos desafíos son perennes y han confrontado a la Iglesia y a sus miembros en cada edad. Algunos son únicos a nuestros días. Sin embargo, se nos recuerda que «Jesucristo es el mismo ayer, y hoy, y por los siglos» (Hebreos 13,8).

Superprioridades de la Arquidiócesis

La base de todos nuestros esfuerzos desde la fundación de nuestra Arquidiócesis hasta hoy día es nuestra fidelidad a Jesucristo y su Iglesia. Es una fidelidad que se expresa en apartarnos del pecado y volvemos hacia Cristo. Es una fidelidad enraizada en los sacramentos y es una fidelidad que nos une como miembros del Cuerpo de Cristo.

Durante el año Bicentenario, mencioné algunas «superprioridades» respecto a la Arquidiócesis para que juntos, pudiéramos ser aún más efectivos en avanzar la misión de Cristo. Quisiera ahora reafirmar mi compromiso a estas superprioridades y enfatizarlas como el modo de cumplir con nuestro compromiso a la conversión y a la santidad. Estas superprioridades nos sostendrán en todos nuestros esfuerzos y nos animarán a ser fieles en llevar a cabo la misión de Cristo.

La Santa Eucaristía – En primer lugar, renuevo mí llamada para una aún más digna y ferviente celebración de la Santa Eucaristía, sobre todo los domingos. Además, procediendo desde nuestra celebración de la Misa, el don perdurable de Jesús en la Eucaristía nos llama a profundizar nuestro amor y devoción al Santísimo Sacramento por la adoración eucarística. La misión de Cristo se perfeccionó en la Cruz, y así, es por medio de su sacrificio que somos lo más íntimamente unidos con él y nos juntamos en su misión de amor salvífico.

El Sacramento de la Confesión – Si queremos experimentar la plenitud de unión con Jesús en la Eucaristía, debemos tener corazones generosamente enamorados de él. Por lo tanto, renuevo mi llamada a todos nosotros a que seamos un pueblo de conversión, especialmente por medio de la más frecuente celebración y participación en el sacramento de la Confesión. Por medio de este sacramento, recibimos en Cristo el Divino Médico el perdón de nuestros pecados. Sin embargo, la gloria de este sacramento se queda no solamente en el perdón de nuestros pecados sino también en el don de la gracia santificante que nos limpia y nos hace dispuestos para las gracias particulares que son necesarias para resistir la tentación y permanecer fieles y santos en nuestras vidas diarias.

La necesidad especial para las vocaciones sacerdotales en la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia—Los sacramentos de la Eucaristía y la Confesión no existen sin el ministerio del sacerdote. Por medio del ministerio de los sacerdotes, Cristo pastorea su Iglesia y hace efectivo su amor misericordioso en nuestras vidas. Y así, renuevo mi llamada de rezar por las vocaciones al sacerdocio y animarlas, para que muchísimos más jóvenes respondan a la invitación de Cristo de servir a su pueblo en la Iglesia de Filadelfia.

La digna y ferviente celebración de la Santa Eucaristía; la más frecuente recepción del sacramento de la Confesión; el ofrecimiento diario de oraciones para un aumento de vocaciones sacerdotales —éstas son las superprioridades que deben guiarnos mientras buscamos seguir la llamada a la conversión y a la santidad. Deben también ser la base respecto a otras iniciativas evangelizadoras y santificantes mientras apoyamos la vocación del matrimonio cristiano y mientras promovemos vocaciones a la vida consagrada y animamos a todos los llamados a una dedicada vida sólo de servicio.

Fortalecidos por la Eucaristía, por la gracia de la Confesión, y animados por la presencia de Cristo entre nosotros por medio del ministerio del sacerdote, nuestra fe católica tendrá aún más profundas raíces en nuestras vidas diarias.

Evangelización

Estando enterados de las riquezas de nuestra fe, llegaremos a ser un pueblo más comprometido a la evangelización, compartiendo el Evangelio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo con otros por nuestro testimonio y caridad, sobre todo con los pobres, con los marginados y con todos los que, por una razón u otra, han dejado de practicar su fe católica. Nos esforzamos por educar a nuestros hijos en las verdades de nuestra fe católica por medio de las escuelas católicas y los programas parroquiales de educación religiosa que forman a toda la persona, mente, cuerpo y alma. Reconoceremos que nuestra formación en la fe no está limitada a nuestros jóvenes ni a la preparación sacramental, sino que la profundización de nuestro conocimiento de la fe es un programa para adultos por toda la vida. Y mientras reconocemos la plenitud de unidad a la cual nos llaman la conversión y la santidad, nos daremos cuenta de que nuestros esfuerzos apostólicos, sobre todo en nuestras parroquias, deben servir a todas las comunidades étnicas que hacen sus casas entre nosotros. Debemos ser particularmente atentos a nuestros inmigrantes recientes, incluyendo al gran número de asiáticos y africanos, y al grupo más numeroso, los hispanos. Además, siempre debe haber un cuidado especial en nuestras parroquias por las personas con discapacidades, por los enfermos, y por los que sufren y que están en pena.

Si todas éstas tienen que ser prioridades, pues la llamada a la conversión y a la santidad nos obligará también a que investiguemos nuestros recursos y los fines a los cuales están dedicados.

Administración financiera

Dentro de poco, nuestra Campaña Capital, *Herencia de Fe – Visión de Esperanza* se está terminando. Esta campaña ha sido una extraordinaria tarea diseñada para enfrentar los desafíos particulares respecto a la Iglesia en este tiempo histórico. Reconociendo la herencia de nuestra fe y las obras vitales de la Iglesia, nuestra gente ha respondido generosamente a la campaña. Tal generosidad sacrificatoria está enraizada en nuestra identidad cristiana por la cual las bendiciones que hemos recibido son compartidas generosamente con la comunidad entera de la Iglesia.

Estoy agradecido a todos los que han compartido sus recursos tan generosamente y que colaboran en la misión de la Iglesia de esta manera tan importante. Animo a todos los files de la Arquidiócesis a que continúen siendo buenos administradores y a que apoyen las vitales obras pastorales que la Arquidiócesis hace diariamente.

Como respuesta a la buena administración de nuestra gente, la Arquidiócesis promete la cuidadosa y responsable administración de esta generosidad, y renovada atenta administración de todos sus recursos financieros y materiales. Nuestros recursos deben utilizarse eficiente y efectivamente en apoyo de la misión esencial de la Iglesia de ayudar a su pueblo a que ponga atención a la llamada a la conversión y a la santidad.

Planificación estratégica para la educación

Una de las mayores riquezas de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia es la educación católica, sobre todo en nuestras escuelas primarias y secundarias y en nuestros varios programas parroquiales de educación religiosa. Las escuelas y los programas forman una parte de la rica herencia de nuestra Iglesia local, que durante muchos años ha educado a innumerables jóvenes en las verdades de nuestra fe católica. Tal formación provee la fundación de una vida de virtud para ser discípulo comprometido. Expreso mi profunda gratitud a todos nuestros generosos educadores católicos que enseñaban durante muchos años y al mismo tiempo reconozco la contribución sobresaliente de nuestros religiosos hombres y mujeres.

Nuestras escuelas y programas de educación religiosa también sirven para evangelizar a nuestras comunidades comunicándoles el Evangelio, tanto a niños como a familias, y dándoles la bienvenida al entrar en la Iglesia. La Iglesia se fortalece a sí misma por tal alcance y cada comunidad local se vivifica, dándoles la bienvenida a nuevos miembros en la parroquia.

Sin embargo, si nuestras estueltas y los programas de educación religiosa en la parroquias tienen que ser más efectivos, es esencial que verdaderamente sirvan al fin por el cual existen. Las realidades de los cambios demográficos, una disminución de matrículas en algunas escuelas, y el más alto costo de proveer una educación de calidad están forzando grandemente al límite de algunas de nuestras escuelas y programas de educación religiosa. Debemos, por consiguiente, examinar todas nuestras escuelas y todos los programas de educación religiosa para asegurar que son efectivos en cumplir su misión, y que la educación religiosa de nuestra juventud permanezca la prioridad en su operación y mantenimiento.

He pedido que la Oficina de Educación Católica emprenda un estudio comprensivo de nuestras escuelas primarias y secundarias, tanto como de los programas de educación religiosa y que recomiende un plan efectivo para responder a los desafíos que nos enfrentan en este componente críticamente importante de nuestra misión. La Oficina de Educación Católica será guiada en esta tarea por los servicios de una comisión especial (*Blue Ribbon Commission*), cuyos miembros estaré anunciando. La comisión será compuesta de varios expertos que nos ayudarán a desarrollar nuestro plan para realinear y fortalecer la educación católica en la Arquidiócesis. Se espera tener las recomendaciones de la comisión para el otoño del año 2011. Mientras estén pendientes esas recomendaciones, los asuntos relacionados con las escuelas que exigen más atención inmediata continuarán siendo abordados.

No habrá una sola solución a los desafíos que nos enfrentan dado que las necesidades y dificultades de cada comunidad tienen que ser evaluadas. Sin embargo este esfuerzo será guiado por el único fin de formar y educar a toda nuestra juventud en la fe católica.

Iniciativas de planificación para la estructura de las Oficinas arquidiocesanas

Como el Arzobispo de Filadelfia, recibo mucha ayuda de la Curia arquidiocesana. Estas oficinas me apoyan en el gobierno de la Arquidiócesis y proveen un servicio inestimable para toda nuestra gente. Para que puedan ser aún más efectivas en su trabajo y alineadas conformemente con las prioridades de la Arquidiócesis las cuales se encuentran delineadas en esta carta, les he dirigido a los obispos auxiliares que colaboren en desarrollar un plan realista para reestructurar las Oficinas arquidiocesanas para que puedan proveer mejores servicios a nuestras parroquias y otras instituciones. Este plan tiene que efectuarse en julio del año 2011, al comenzar el próximo año fiscal. Espero que por medio de esta reorganización reduzcamos cualquier duplicidad de actividades y burocracia innecesaria en nuestra estructura y ayude mos asegurar que las oficinas arquidiocesanas sean más eficientes, efectivas, y sensibles.

Las parroquias y nuestros sacerdotes

Si tenemos que responder a la llamada a la conversión y la santidad y si también tenemos que llevar a cabo nuestras superprioridades y las otras prioridades que proceden desde ellas, pues nuestra cuidadosa atención debe también enfocarse en el corazón de nuestra Arquidiócesis, es decir, en nuestras parroquias. Es en la parroquia que somos configurados a Cristo por el sacramento del Bautismo y así, dados una participación en su divinidad. Es en la parroquia que nuestros pecados son perdonados por el sacramento de la Confesión y recibimos la efusión del Espíritu Santo en el sacramento de la Confirmación, y que se nos proporciona una participación en el sacrificio de Jesucristo en la celebración de la misa y la recepción de la Sagrada Comunión. En la parroquia, nuestras familias se unen con la familia entera de Dios.

Somos bendecidos en la Arquidiócesis por la vitalidad de tantas comunidades parroquiales, por la fidelidad de nuestros sacerdotes, el servicio de nuestros diáconos, la contribución de nuestros religiosos, y la participación activa de nuestros laicos. Esta vitalidad no niega la necesidad de examinar nuestras parroquias para asegurar su santidad sino que esta rica historia y vitalidad exigen que seamos proactivos en garantizar que nuestras parroquias tengan lo necesario para llevar a cabo su papel en la misión de Cristo.

Específicamente, debemos examinar nuestras parroquias para ver si las superprioridades de la Arquidiócesis son verdaderamente evidentes en la vida de la comunidad. ¿Qué atención adicional hay que tener para asegurar una digna y ferviente celebración de la Santa Eucaristía? ¿Cómo es de atenta la gente en la necesidad por la conversión continua y la más frecuente recepción del sacramento de la Confesión? ¿Y qué tan diligente es la comunidad parroquial en fomentar y orar por las vocaciones sacerdotiales, las cuales en su turno ayudan a crear una cultura de vocación, una atención a la voluntad de Dios en la vida de cada persona?

Si vamos a responder a la llamada a la conversión y la santidad, nuestras parroquias deben ser centros de oración y comunión. La conversión lleva a la unión con Dios y comunión con su Iglesia. De ahí, una parroquia que está enraizada en la conversión experimentará una profunda comunión entre sus feligreses, y con la Arquidiócesis y la Iglesia universal.

Por lo tanto, debemos esforzarnos por asegurar que cada parroquia posea lo necesario para que pueda promover efectivamente la misión de Cristo. Para llevar esto a cabo es preciso que examinemos los demográficos de nuestras parroquias en la luz del número de sacerdotes disponibles para servir nuestras comunidades, en la luz de la migración de nuestra gente, y en la

luz de nuestros recursos financieros para mantener y apoyar nuestras parroquias. Esta evaluación de las parroquias comenzará en enero del año 2011.

Tal examen es en sí mismo un momento de gran esperanza para cada comunidad parroquial. Sirve como una oportunidad de renovar el compromiso del pueblo a las prioridades de nuestra fe católica y nuestra familia arquidiocesana. También llama la atención a los dones de todos en la parroquia y presenta una oportunidad para una colaboración apropiada al estado de vida de cada persona. Para realizar este examen, he anunciado el nombramiento de un coordinador de las Iniciativas de Planificación Arquidiocesana quien trabajará muy de cerca con los obispos auxiliares en coordinar nuestra planificación.

* * *

Al estudiar las necesidades de la Arquidiócesis y al responder a esas necesidades como se exige, tendremos el beneficio de las experiencias de otras diócesis que han emprendido iniciativas semejantes en los años recientes para que podamos aprender de ellos lo que ha sido efectivo y menos efectivo.

En todo eso, insisto en la necesidad de ser atentos a la diversidad cultural progresiva de la Arquidiócesis. Nuestra historia es la de una Iglesia inmigrante que continúa abrazando en bienvenida a los que son nuevos en medio de nosotros. Debemos también recomprometernos en nuestro cuidado por los pobres y los menos afortunados, para que sus necesidades permanezcan en nuestra preocupación y soliciten de nosotros una respuesta de caridad genuina.

Durante toda nuestra historia de 200 años como una diócesis, la Iglesia de Filadelfia ha sido bendecida por innumerables personas que han seguido diariamente la llamada a la conversión y la santidad. Estoy profundamente agradecido a todos los fieles de la Arquidiócesis por su fidelidad a Cristo y su Iglesia. Le animo a cada uno de ustedes a que permanezca abierto a la llamada a la conversión y la santidad en su propia vida, para que la Iglesia misma pueda involucrarse aún más profundamente en el misterio del amor de Cristo. Y para que nuestras iniciativas pastorales puedan ser verdaderamente aumentadas por todos, pido la plena colaboración y participación de todos en los meses que vienen.

En el nombre de Jesús el Buen Pastor, me vuelvo ahora a todos los que por una razón u otra han dejado de asistir a misa, y les invito a regresar a la comunidad de la Iglesia donde serán bien acogidos con alegría y honor.

A ustedes, nuestros fieles laicos, digo: Por su buena disposición de ser involucrados en la vida de la Iglesia, o sea por testimonio activo y servicio, o por oración silenciosa y ofertas sacrificatorias, ustedes son una verdadera señal de esperanza. Ustedes que son casados demuestran providencialmente la fecundidad del amor de Dios por ser abiertos a su voluntad. Ustedes que son solteros se ofrecen generosamente en servicio a otros. Los animo a todos que sean una levadura en nuestro mundo para que la conversión y la santidad que experimentan puedan ser una señal a todos de la misericordia y bondad de Dios.

Por ustedes, nuestros religiosos, hombres y mujeres, doy gracias a Dios omnipotente y reconozco su servicio a la Arquidiócesis, especialmente en nuestras parroquias, en los servicios sociales y en las instituciones educacionales. Los animo que sean la caridad de Cristo y una señal

de su santidad, haciendo fielmente que los carismas que poseen sean aún más evidentes en el servicio a la Iglesia.

Por ustedes, nuestros seminaristas, ofrezco gracias a Dios ya que veo su generosa disposición para seguir a Jesús mientras disciernen una vocación sacerdotal. ¡Qué perseveren, permaneciendo unidos a Cristo y abiertos a su gracia que hace todas las cosas nuevas!

Por ustedes, nuestros diáconos, expreso mi profundo agradecimiento mientras hacen presente a Cristo el Servidor entre nosotros. ¡Qué el servicio desinteresado que manifiestan los renueve diariamente en su dedicación a la Iglesia!

Pasando a considerar a ustedes, mis hermanos sacerdotes, con inmensa gratitud reconozco su fidelidad e infatigable servicio a Cristo y a su pueblo fiel. Personalmente, estoy siempre agradecido por la íntima colaboración y alegre celo que tienen. Les renuevo el desafío de ser santos y de servir como íconos de la misericordia y fidelidad de Cristo.

Unidos con María, nuestra Madre, con san José, su esposo, y con san Juan Neumann y santa Katharina Drexel, nuestros propios santos patrones, le damos alegre alabanza a Dios por sus innumerables bendiciones. Todos juntos, renovamos nuestro compromiso a contestar la llamada de seguir en esperanza a nuestro Señor Jesucristo, mientras nos esforzamos por llevar a cabo nuestra parte en su misión respondiendo generosamente a su llamada a la conversión y la santidad.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+Justino Cardinal Rigali
Arzobispo de Filadelfia

El 19 de octubre de 2010
Memorial de los Mártires Norteamericanos
San Juan de Brébeuf, San Issac Jogues y sus compañeros



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

June 20, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year the annual **Peter's Pence Collection** in support of the Holy Father's spiritual and charitable works will be taken up on the weekend of **June 28 and 29, 2008**. Through this annual collection, Catholics offer a powerful witness of love, assisting those who suffer from war, oppression, disease and natural disasters.

Your generous participation in this special appeal is an expression of solidarity with more than one billion Catholics worldwide. You share in the concern of the successor of Peter for the many different needs of the universal Church and for the relief of those most in need around the globe.

With gratitude for your past contributions and relying on your compassion for the needy, I ask you to respond generously once again to this collection.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of June 21 and 22. The collection is taken up the following weekend of June 28 and June 29. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

June 19, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The **Peter's Pence Collection**, in support of the Holy Father's spiritual and charitable works, will be taken up on the weekend of **June 27 and 28, 2009**. Through your generous participation in this special appeal, you share in the concern of the Successor of Peter to respond with emergency financial assistance to our brothers and sisters who suffer as a result of war, oppression, disease and natural disaster.

In September of 2006, Pope Benedict XVI gave a homily in which he explained that those who are baptized create one family of believers who are never alone. The **Peter's Pence Collection** unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters with promptness, love, and compassion, so God's people will not feel alone in their time of misfortune.

With gratitude for your past contributions and relying on your compassion for the needy, I ask you to respond generously once again to this collection according to your means.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of June 20 and 21. The collection is taken up the following weekend of June 27 and June 28. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

November 28, 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

The **Annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection**, now in its twenty-first year, continues to be one of the most successful appeals in the history of the Catholic Church in the United States. Many religious institutes and societies of apostolic life have received much needed support through your generosity in sharing with them the responsibility of caring for their retired members.

On behalf of all the Christian faithful, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has thanked God for the precious service which is and has been rendered to the Church by men and women religious. In doing so, His Holiness has also expressed his prayerful remembrance of all “the brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly or in difficulty” [*Message on the Occasion of the XII World Day for Consecrated Life, February 2, 2008*].

Consecrated life in the Church is directed to the contemplation of things divine and to constant union with God in prayer. Though consecrated persons serve in many apostolates of human formation, service to the poor, education and health care, their essential contribution depends more on who they are than on what they do, even though their achievements are enormous.

As part of your support of our men and women religious, I ask for your characteristically generous response to the **Retirement Fund for Religious Collection**, which is scheduled for **December 6 - 7, 2008**. In addition to your financial assistance, I ask for your continued prayers for all our retired religious priests, sisters, and brothers, and for those who selflessly care for them.

Assuring you of my deep gratitude, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of November 29 - 30, 2008; the collection is taken up the following weekend of December 6 and 7, 2008. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

November, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the hallmarks of our Catholic Church in America has been the generous evangelical spirit of our consecrated men and women in religious communities. From the earliest days, dedicated religious in our country have spread the Good News of Jesus and cared for the spiritual and physical needs of so many. From the Chesapeake to the Mississippi, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific, all through the land, their sacrifices and struggles give striking testimony to God's love for His people. Our parish schools, hospitals, orphanages, retreat centers and universities testify to their creativity, persistence and unswerving commitment. Their accomplishments constitute a truly remarkable witness. These labors have borne fruit also in the graces of many vocations to religious congregations which have continued this dynamic ministry.

In addition, we cannot overlook the fact that this historic and heroic apostolic witness includes our contemplative religious. By their prayers, self sacrifice and total dedication, they have empowered the evangelical mission of the Church. Standing in our midst, these monasteries and cloisters are indeed power houses of prayer and grace.

Each year the **Annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection** grants us a dual opportunity. It enables us to express our thanks for the labors of our religious, as well as providing much needed assistance to meet the economic and financial burdens that many congregations encounter as never before.

Once again, I ask you to support generously our religious brothers and sisters in this **Retirement Fund for Religious Collection** scheduled for **December 11 and 12, 2010**. Let us also continue to remember them in our daily prayers with sentiments of fond affection and gratitude.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of December 4 and 5, 2010; the collection is taken up the following weekend of December 11 and 12, 2010. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

December, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the past years the **Annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection** in our country has provided much needed assistance for those religious who have generously given of themselves in the service of the Gospel. In these uncertain economic times, we all recognize the additional burden placed upon religious congregations in caring for their elderly, sick and retired members.

The role of consecrated religious in the history of the American Church offers a truly remarkable witness. With great enthusiasm, and often in difficult and trying circumstances, these men and women have undertaken the challenge of bringing Christ's salvific message and comfort to so many needing that grace. From parish schools and education centers to hospitals and hospices, to academic institutions of higher learning, their selfless dedication demonstrates how God cares for His people through the hands and hearts of these chosen servants. Quickly do our thoughts turn to Bishop John Neumann and Mother Katharine Drexel, humble saints in our midst, whose testimony of lived evangelization stands ever before us.

As we appreciate the active role of religious men and women in varied apostolates, we know well that the Church's mission depends also upon the prayers and self offering of those in contemplative life. Sacrifice and prayer give life and sustenance to all our efforts.

Once again I ask you for your continued generous support for our devoted brothers and sisters in this Retirement Fund for Religious Collection, scheduled for December 12-13, 2009. Let us also gratefully remember them in our daily prayers.

Assuring you of my personal thanks, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Justin Cardinal Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of December 5-6, 2009; the collection is taken up the following weekend of December 12 and 13, 2009. Collection remittance should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

December 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia catechumens and candidates for the Easter Sacraments come together week after week, especially on Sunday, to learn from God's Word the paths for conversion and grace in Christ. It is my privilege to invite those catechumens and candidates for full communion, who will be ready for the Lenten period of enlightenment to the *Celebration of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion Preparing for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church* at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

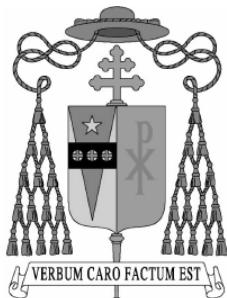
The celebration of this rite on the First Sunday of Lent is truly an action of the whole Church. May this occasion be a sign for you of God's favor as you are elected and called by the Archbishop, joined by his priests and the faithful, to progress toward Easter. We must keep in mind that through the Easter Sacraments we encounter the crucified and risen Lord. It is this Paschal Mystery of Jesus that transforms us to be His disciples and to witness to His kingdom through our daily words and works.

I look forward to this upcoming day of your election and call to continuing conversion and assure you of my prayers on your journey to Easter and to membership in the Church. I am most grateful to the priests, deacons, catechists, godparents and sponsors who accompany you on your way to Christ, His Sacraments and life in the Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

November, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Lord, speaking through the Prophet Jeremiah, says to his people: "I will give you shepherds according to my own heart" (Jeremiah 3:15). It is in this spirit that God calls men to serve as His priests. Since 1832, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary has assisted seminarians in their response to God's call and in forming them for priestly service in the Church.

Our Seminary prepares men for Ordination to the Holy Priesthood in a tradition of excellence that is well respected both nationally and internationally. This reputation stems from God's grace through a dedicated faculty and administration devoted to the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation of our seminarians who have responded with great courage and humility to God's call to bring Jesus Christ to people and people to Jesus Christ.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia recognizes the blessing that is Saint Charles Seminary. Each year we have a special collection to support the work and mission of Saint Charles Seminary. I am grateful for previous sacrifices which you have made to the **Annual Seminary Appeal**. Your financial assistance is evidence of your belief in the importance of priestly vocations and the good works performed at Saint Charles Seminary. I ask you again this year to consider prayerfully making whatever sacrificial contribution may be possible for you.

Your gift will provide opportunity to educate, train, and prepare priests for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, as well as many other dioceses throughout the United States and the world. Your gift will provide financial aid to all Philadelphia seminarians who otherwise might not be able to pursue their vocation. Your gift will fund new programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and provide new technology to share resources with priests and lay faithful around the Archdiocese and beyond.

It is during their years in the Seminary when these men discover more intimately the profound calling to be shepherds according to the heart of Jesus Christ. Your continued prayers and contributions are essential to the future of the Church in our Archdiocese. Please support the **Annual Seminary Appeal** so that these men can continue their preparations to serve you.

Through the intercession of Mary, our Mother, and Saint Charles Borromeo may our Lord Jesus bless you.

Sincerely yours,

Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of November 1 and 2, 2008)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

October 30, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During this year we join our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in celebrating the “Year of the Priest.” The year affords us many opportunities to reflect on the gift of the Priesthood and its importance in the life of the Church, and to pray for our priests, future priests, and an increase in vocations to the diocesan priesthood.

Saint John Vianney, Patron Saint of Parish Priests, refers to the Priesthood as the “*love of the heart of Jesus*.” Love of the heart of Jesus calls us to continually grow in our relationship with him and at the same time have our hearts transformed to love others as He has loved us. This is one of the goals of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary as it helps prepare men for ordination and service as Priests. We are so fortunate, here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, to have our own Seminary where all our future priests are formed. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, we currently have 48 young men who have encountered Jesus Christ and who are striving to respond to His call. They need your support so that they can share in His Priesthood.

In this *Year of the Priest*, the **Seminary Appeal** is more important than ever before. Your generosity each year for this appeal is extraordinary. I am grateful for your support in the past and appreciate all the sacrifices you make to support our Seminary. The annual goal of \$2.5 million is necessary to help reduce the costs for seminarian education and formation. The Appeal will also assist the Seminary in recovering from the economic downturn which has affected so many people and institutions this past year. Conscious that we have all felt the effects of the current challenging economic situation, I ask you please to make the sacrifice to offer a generous contribution to our Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Please help our courageous young men become priests. Our world and our Archdiocese desperately need them, for without the Priesthood there would be no Eucharist, and without the Eucharist there would be no Church.

Please know how grateful I am for your generosity to this important cause.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of October 31 and November 1, 2009.)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

November, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The words of Jesus, given in the Gospel context where he identifies himself as the Good Shepherd, reveal his mission towards humanity: “I came that they may have life and have it more abundantly.” Jesus extends in time this life-giving mission by the gift of the sacramental priesthood, where men are configured to the Good Shepherd.

Priests make Jesus present in the Eucharist, they bestow his power in word and sacrament, they proclaim his Kingdom, they impart life that does not end. Priests are sent forth so that people may have life and have it more abundantly.

The Seminary is the place where men are formed as priests to live the life-giving mission of Jesus. For this reason, the Seminary is essential in advancing the Gospel message and the vitality of the Church. We are blessed to have in our Archdiocese a Seminary which is well respected both nationally and internationally for its tradition of excellence in priestly formation. When our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI greeted me shortly after his election, he specifically said, “You have a good seminary.” He in fact had visited St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in 1990 as a Cardinal and experienced first hand our vibrant seminary community.

Largely due to your faithful support we have succeeded in maintaining the high-quality priestly formation in our Seminary that is recognized far and wide. I am so grateful for your past prayerful assistance and your ongoing generosity. I invite you once again to share the blessings that God has shared with you by a renewed commitment to our Seminary. Please make a meaningful financial gift to the **Seminary Appeal**, whatever your means permit, because there are few needs more important than supporting the formation of holy priests.

Thank you for your generous sacrifices, which are often made in secret and certainly all the more significant in the current economy. Thank you for your fidelity to Jesus Christ and His Church. Thank you for supporting our seminarians.

Through the intercession of Mary, our Mother, and Saint Charles Borromeo may our Lord Jesus bless and keep you.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of October 30 and 31, 2010.)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

March 29, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Church in Africa is the fastest growing area of the Universal Church. It is also the neediest in our family of faith. The Church in Africa is spiritually rich, but desperately poor. Over 70% of our African brothers and sisters live on less than \$2 per day. This poverty cripples the ability of the local Church to raise sufficient funds for pastoral needs from the faithful.

The **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** supports the pastoral outreach, catechetical programs, Catholic schools, programs of evangelization, education of seminarians and the continuing education of clergy. In Sudan, the Church is re-building after a devastating north-south civil war and promoting peace in Dafur. Your support will aid the Church in pastoral activities, media communications as well as trauma healing and training for Church personnel.

The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa focuses on building the pastoral capacity of the Church in Africa and on strengthening the bonds of faith that ties the Church in the United States to the Church in Africa. It will not duplicate the humanitarian or development assistance provided by Catholic Relief Services.

I am asking that a voluntary collection be taken up in the parishes and institutions of the Archdiocese on the weekend of **April 5 and 6, 2008**. On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Africa, I am grateful for your generous support.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(This voluntary collection is to be taken on **April 5 and 6, 2008**. Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of **March 29 and 30th**. Collection remittance is to be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Good Friday
March 21, 2008 – 7:30 PM**

**Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary
100 East Wynnewood Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096**

Parking will be at Saint Joseph's University
(entrance to parking lot is on 54th St. below City Avenue)

Shuttle buses will be available for transportation
to/from the Seminary beginning at
6:30 PM (No parking will be
available on the Seminary grounds)

Candles will be provided at the Seminary
(suggested offering - \$2.00 per candle/protector)

If you are planning to attend, please call
Kathy Kelley at (215) 965-8280
with the number expected to participate
(for planning purposes).



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

November 26, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During this time of Thanksgiving, many of us will take a moment to reflect on the blessings in our lives.

As I look back on the past year, I am thankful for the tireless effort and generosity of those who have supported ***Heritage of Faith ~ Vision of Hope***. This historic effort, which began a little more than 15 months ago, is enabling the Church of Philadelphia to respond to the needs of its people now and in the future.

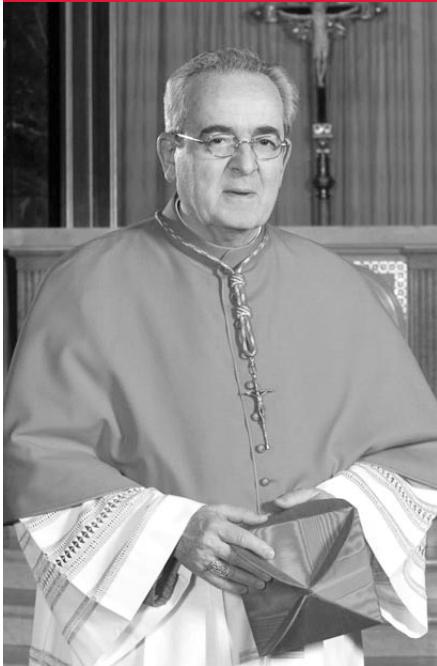
Through the dedication and prayers of pastors, volunteers and donors, over 21,000 families already have made pledges and gifts totaling \$110 million toward our goal of \$200 million. Many more parishes will introduce this extraordinary endeavor in the coming months, which encourages us that our goal will be met.

On behalf of the people, parishes and programs that will benefit from your sacrificial pledge, I extend my gratitude.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia



THE FOLLOWING COLUMN ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE CATHOLIC STANDARD & TIMES.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

MARRIED LOVE AND THE GIFT OF LIFE

On July 25, 1968,
Pope Paul VI issued
his Encyclical,
Humanae Vitae.
As the Church
prepares to
observe the
anniversary of its
promulgation,
Cardinal Rigali
reflects on the
landmark
document and
the meaning of
married love.

The Gift of Human Love

Human love and all the fulfillment that goes with it are gifts of God. We give thanks for these gifts and for the marvelous way in which we have been created by God. We can call out with David, the Psalmist: "I praise you, so wonderfully you made me" (Psalm 139:14).

The mystery of human love is most clearly fulfilled in the commitment of a man and woman to one another in marriage. Two individuals give themselves to one another using words which are magnificent, poetic and even sobering because of their depth of meaning: "For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death!" In attempting to express this mystery in words, this is about the best we can do. It is the verbal expression of the marvelous interior reality of human love and the covenant two people enter into through the Sacrament of Matrimony.

In the marvel of creation, not only has God put within us the ability to love, He has also given to man and woman the ability to seal that love and commitment through their sexual union. One of the great tragedies of our age is the separation, in the popular mentality, of the sexual act from a commitment of love. This is tragic because it involves the use of our sexuality in a manner that was not intended by our Creator, and so it can never bring the enduring peace and fulfillment that every human person longs for. Even sexual expression within marriage has been affected by this misconception. "Our culture often presents sex as merely recreational, not as a deeply personal or even important encounter between spouses. In this view, being responsible about sex simply means limiting its consequences—avoiding disease and using contraceptives to prevent pregnancy." In order to affirm, yet again, the intimate partnership between a man and woman found in



marriage, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted and approved for publication the document I just quoted from: *Married Love and the Gift of Life*. Meanwhile the text itself is already available to all at www.usccb.org/laity/marriage/MarriedLove.pdf

Total Giving of the Spouses and Contraception

The ability of a human person to enter into a covenant of love with another person, and seal it with the most intimate of acts, reflects the glorious dignity with which God has endowed men and women from the beginning of creation. The Church reminds us that marriage is more than a mere civil contract; it is a lifelong covenant of love between a man and a woman. The living out of that covenant is meant to be a constant affirmation of the total giving of one to the other as promised in the exchange of marriage vows. In the course of expressing their covenanted love through the magnificent act of sexual relations, the couple also receives from God the possibility of bringing forth human life! In their ability to love one another, they reflect the love implanted in their hearts by their Creator; and in their ability to conceive children they are allowed to participate in the very act of God's creation.

Because these questions involve the natural law placed

within us, as well as the full Christian teaching concerning the meaning of marriage, the Church by her very nature has the responsibility of upholding the truth in its entirety. This is why the American Bishops have decided, yet again, to make clear the Church's teaching concerning contraception in this reflection on Christian marriage. They go on to say: "When married couples deliberately act to suppress fertility...it is no longer fully marital intercourse. It is something less powerful and intimate, something more 'casual.' Suppressing fertility by using contraception denies part of the inherent meaning of married sexuality and does harm to the couple's unity" (*Married Love and the Gift of Life*). I know that, for many different reasons, many of our Catholic people do not fully understand or appreciate the Church's clear teaching in this area. However, many of my brother priests tell me that when couples preparing for marriage have this teaching explained to them in all its integrity, they readily understand its beauty. They realize in the fullness of their human love that to make use of contraception, which means "against the beginning," introduces a false note into their married love. In no way does this mean that this is an easy teaching! A person can read this article but then go out into a society which often presents the exact opposite of

this Christian teaching both in its values and in the ease with which it can ignore this teaching.

False Promises

It would be interesting to do a study of some of the literature issued in the late 1950s and early 1960s, when the birth control pill was becoming more available. It came with some promises. This is what they were: 1) Availability of the birth control pill would make every child a “wanted child.” 2) The divorce rate would decrease since couples would be free to express their love within marriage without the “fear” of conception. The very terms that were used, “wanted child” and “fear” should tell us that, as our young people would say: “There’s something wrong with this picture!” The other thing that was wrong was the prediction. I do not need to draw attention here the statistics we can easily observe concerning the failure of these “promises.”

The Church, however, seeks to condemn no one. She seeks only to proclaim and explain the full truth of married love for the good of the individual and of society. Her desire is that individuals freely embrace the truth, not out of fear but out of understanding. Pope John Paul II expressed the truth concerning life and marriage on many occasions. In one of his most helpful summaries, he stated:

“In particular, responsible fatherhood and motherhood directly concern the moment in which a man and a woman, uniting ‘in one flesh’, can become parents. This is a moment of special value to both of them for their interpersonal relationship and for their service to life: they can become parents—father and mother—by communicating life to a new human being. The two dimensions of conjugal union, the unitive and the procreative, cannot be artificially separated without damaging the deepest truth of the conjugal act itself. This is the constant teaching of the Church, and the ‘signs of the times,’ which we see today, are providing new reasons for forcefully reaffirming that teaching. Saint Paul, himself so attentive to the pastoral demands of his day, clearly and firmly indicated the need to be ‘urgent in season and out of season’ (cf. 2 Tim. 4:2), and not to be daunted by the fact that ‘sound teaching is no longer endured’ (cf. 2 Tim. 4:3). His words are well known to those who, with deep insight into the events of the present time, expect that the Church will not only not abandon ‘sound doctrine’ but will proclaim it with renewed vigor; seeking in today’s ‘signs of the times’ the incentive and insights which can lead to a deeper understanding of her teaching” (*Letter to Families*, February 2, 1994).

Accurate predictions

In response to the claims and speculation of the 1960s concerning the use of contraception, Pope Paul VI issued the famous encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. In this fulfillment of his pastoral responsibility, Pope Paul VI was called to endure misunderstanding and rejection from many quarters. In maintaining the constant teaching of the Church concerning the openness to love and life, the Holy Father offered some predictions of what could take place as a result of a misuse of the gift of human love and sexuality. In particular, he asked the faithful to consider “...how easy it will be for many to justify behavior leading to marital infidelity or to a gradual weakening in the discipline of morals....[E]specially the young, so susceptible to temptation... need to be encouraged to keep the moral law.” He went on to say: “...it is to be feared that husbands who become accustomed to contraceptive practices will lose respect for their wives. They may come to disregard their wife’s psychological and physical equilibrium and use their wives as instruments for serving their own desires” (*Humanae Vitae*, 17). I am sure Pope Paul VI took no satisfaction in seeing his predictions come true.

What to do?

In this matter, which has such great pastoral significance and is so relevant to our time, it must be made clear that the Church does not expect couples to leave their family size to chance. While the Church encourages couples to take a generous view of children, she understands that serious circumstances may cause them to delay the birth of their children. It is perfectly permissible for couples to make use of the naturally infertile times in a woman's cycle. This is the principle behind Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods, which have been so greatly perfected in recent years. Natural Family Planning does not limit itself to the use of a calendar to predict the fertile time. Rather, it involves observing the clear signs which a woman experiences that indicate the fertile and infertile periods. When used

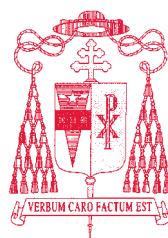
properly, this method has been so effective for so many people, while at the same time respecting the natural process of the human body. "When couples use contraception, either physical or chemical, they suppress their fertility, asserting that they alone have ultimate control over this power to create a new human life. With NFP, spouses respect God's design for life and love" (*Married Love and the Gift of Life*).

At times, this can certainly be a challenging teaching. Even those who try to be faithful to it may be tempted to give up. We are so proud of the many couples who have faithfully applied this teaching to their own marriage, and who are able to testify how it has helped them to grow in deep mutual conjugal love and to be totally renewed in their commitment to one another. How fortunate we are that many of these couples are willing to share with young people prepar-

ing for marriage what they themselves have experienced in the generosity of their love.

At this time it is useful to recall that Jesus did not limit His message to easy teachings. In the sixth chapter of Saint John's Gospel, with reference to Jesus' promise to give to the world His own Body and Blood, some of His own disciples said: "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" (John 6:60). But, as men and women created by a loving God who has imprinted His love within your hearts, you, dear married couples, are given the gift of expressing your loving covenant in an act of sublime beauty that is meant to be both love-giving and life-giving. As you strive to live faithfully, according to God's law, all the requirements of Christian married love, you can turn to Jesus, as Peter did, saying: "You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

February 8, 2007



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299



THE FOLLOWING COLUMN ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE CATHOLIC STANDARD & TIMES.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

MARRIED LOVE AND THE GIFT OF LIFE

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The Gift of Human Love

Human love and all the fulfillment that goes with it are gifts of God. We give thanks for these gifts and for the marvelous way in which we have been created by God. We can call out with David, the Psalmist: "I praise you, so wonderfully you made me" (Psalm 139:14).

The mystery of human love is most clearly fulfilled in the commitment of a man and woman to one another in marriage. Two individuals give themselves to one another using words which are magnificent, poetic and even sobering because of their depth of meaning: "For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death!" In attempting to express this mystery in words, this is about the best we can do. It is the verbal expression of the marvelous interior reality of human love and the covenant two people enter into through the Sacrament of Matrimony.

In the marvel of creation, not only has God put within us the ability to love, He has also given to man and woman the ability to seal that love and commitment through their sexual union. One of the great tragedies of our age is the separation, in the popular mentality, of the sexual act from a commitment of love. This is tragic because it involves the use of our sexuality in a manner that was not intended by our Creator, and so it can never bring the enduring peace and fulfillment that every human person longs for. Even sexual expression within marriage has been affected by this misconception. "Our culture often presents sex as merely recreational, not as a deeply personal or even important encounter between spouses. In this view, being responsible about sex simply means limiting its consequences—avoiding disease and using contraceptives to prevent pregnancy." In order to affirm, yet again, the intimate partnership between a man and woman found in



marriage, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted and approved for publication the document I just quoted from: *Married Love and the Gift of Life*. Meanwhile the text itself is already available to all at www.usccb.org/laity/marriage/MarriedLove.pdf

Total Giving of the Spouses and Contraception

The ability of a human person to enter into a covenant of love with another person, and seal it with the most intimate of acts, reflects the glorious dignity with which God has endowed men and women from the beginning of creation. The Church reminds us that marriage is more than a mere civil contract; it is a lifelong covenant of love between a man and a woman. The living out of that covenant is meant to be a constant affirmation of the total giving of one to the other as promised in the exchange of marriage vows. In the course of expressing their covenanted love through the magnificent act of sexual relations, the couple also receives from God the possibility of bringing forth human life! In their ability to love one another, they reflect the love implanted in their hearts by their Creator; and in their ability to conceive children they are allowed to participate in the very act of God's creation.

Because these questions involve the natural law placed

within us, as well as the full Christian teaching concerning the meaning of marriage, the Church by her very nature has the responsibility of upholding the truth in its entirety. This is why the American Bishops have decided, yet again, to make clear the Church's teaching concerning contraception in this reflection on Christian marriage. They go on to say: "When married couples deliberately act to suppress fertility...it is no longer fully marital intercourse. It is something less powerful and intimate, something more 'casual.' Suppressing fertility by using contraception denies part of the inherent meaning of married sexuality and does harm to the couple's unity" (*Married Love and the Gift of Life*). I know that, for many different reasons, many of our Catholic people do not fully understand or appreciate the Church's clear teaching in this area. However, many of my brother priests tell me that when couples preparing for marriage have this teaching explained to them in all its integrity, they readily understand its beauty. They realize in the fullness of their human love that to make use of contraception, which means "against the beginning," introduces a false note into their married love. In no way does this mean that this is an easy teaching! A person can read this article but then go out into a society which often presents the exact opposite of

this Christian teaching both in its values and in the ease with which it can ignore this teaching.

False Promises

It would be interesting to do a study of some of the literature issued in the late 1950s and early 1960s, when the birth control pill was becoming more available. It came with some promises. This is what they were: 1) Availability of the birth control pill would make every child a “wanted child.” 2) The divorce rate would decrease since couples would be free to express their love within marriage without the “fear” of conception. The very terms that were used, “wanted child” and “fear” should tell us that, as our young people would say: “There’s something wrong with this picture!” The other thing that was wrong was the prediction. I do not need to draw attention here the statistics we can easily observe concerning the failure of these “promises.”

The Church, however, seeks to condemn no one. She seeks only to proclaim and explain the full truth of married love for the good of the individual and of society. Her desire is that individuals freely embrace the truth, not out of fear but out of understanding. Pope John Paul II expressed the truth concerning life and marriage on many occasions. In one of his most helpful summaries, he stated:

“In particular, responsible fatherhood and motherhood directly concern the moment in which a man and a woman, uniting ‘in one flesh’, can become parents. This is a moment of special value to both of them for their interpersonal relationship and for their service to life: they can become parents—father and mother—by communicating life to a new human being. The two dimensions of conjugal union, the unitive and the procreative, cannot be artificially separated without damaging the deepest truth of the conjugal act itself. This is the constant teaching of the Church, and the ‘signs of the times,’ which we see today, are providing new reasons for forcefully reaffirming that teaching. Saint Paul, himself so attentive to the pastoral demands of his day, clearly and firmly indicated the need to be ‘urgent in season and out of season’ (cf. 2 Tim. 4:2), and not to be daunted by the fact that ‘sound teaching is no longer endured’ (cf. 2 Tim. 4:3). His words are well known to those who, with deep insight into the events of the present time, expect that the Church will not only not abandon ‘sound doctrine’ but will proclaim it with renewed vigor; seeking in today’s ‘signs of the times’ the incentive and insights which can lead to a deeper understanding of her teaching” (*Letter to Families*, February 2, 1994).

Accurate predictions

In response to the claims and speculation of the 1960s concerning the use of contraception, Pope Paul VI issued the famous encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. In this fulfillment of his pastoral responsibility, Pope Paul VI was called to endure misunderstanding and rejection from many quarters. In maintaining the constant teaching of the Church concerning the openness to love and life, the Holy Father offered some predictions of what could take place as a result of a misuse of the gift of human love and sexuality. In particular, he asked the faithful to consider “... how easy it will be for many to justify behavior leading to marital infidelity or to a gradual weakening in the discipline of morals....[E]specially the young, so susceptible to temptation... need to be encouraged to keep the moral law.” He went on to say: “...it is to be feared that husbands who become accustomed to contraceptive practices will lose respect for their wives. They may come to disregard their wife’s psychological and physical equilibrium and use their wives as instruments for serving their own desires” (*Humanae Vitae*, 17). I am sure Pope Paul VI took no satisfaction in seeing his predictions come true.

What to do?

In this matter, which has such great pastoral significance and is so relevant to our time, it must be made clear that the Church does not expect couples to leave their family size to chance. While the Church encourages couples to take a generous view of children, she understands that serious circumstances may cause them to delay the birth of their children. It is perfectly permissible for couples to make use of the naturally infertile times in a woman's cycle. This is the principle behind Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods, which have been so greatly perfected in recent years. Natural Family Planning does not limit itself to the use of a calendar to predict the fertile time. Rather, it involves observing the clear signs which a woman experiences that indicate the fertile and infertile periods. When used

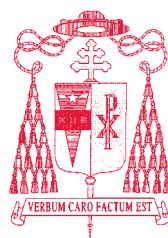
properly, this method has been so effective for so many people, while at the same time respecting the natural process of the human body. "When couples use contraception, either physical or chemical, they suppress their fertility, asserting that they alone have ultimate control over this power to create a new human life. With NFP, spouses respect God's design for life and love" (*Married Love and the Gift of Life*).

At times, this can certainly be a challenging teaching. Even those who try to be faithful to it may be tempted to give up. We are so proud of the many couples who have faithfully applied this teaching to their own marriage, and who are able to testify how it has helped them to grow in deep mutual conjugal love and to be totally renewed in their commitment to one another. How fortunate we are that many of these couples are willing to share with young people prepar-

ing for marriage what they themselves have experienced in the generosity of their love.

At this time it is useful to recall that Jesus did not limit His message to easy teachings. In the sixth chapter of Saint John's Gospel, with reference to Jesus' promise to give to the world His own Body and Blood, some of His own disciples said: "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" (John 6:60). But, as men and women created by a loving God who has imprinted His love within your hearts, you, dear married couples, are given the gift of expressing your loving covenant in an act of sublime beauty that is meant to be both love-giving and life-giving. As you strive to live faithfully, according to God's law, all the requirements of Christian married love, you can turn to Jesus, as Peter did, saying: "You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

February 8, 2007



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

October 12, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each of us, at Baptism, is given a special responsibility. We are called, by our Lord, to tell the world the “Good News” of His love and salvation. We are to be His Missionaries. Each year, on **World Mission Sunday**, all baptized Catholics gather for Mass—in small chapels, as well as in large cathedrals around the globe—to celebrate our Missionary vocation, and to offer prayers and sacrifices for the Missionary task.

World Mission Sunday, this year on October 19, takes on added significance as the Church here at home marks the passing of one hundred years since a papal decree removed the designation of “Mission territory” from the United States – 100 years of independence from the generosity of the Catholics of Europe through the *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith*.

In fact, two-thirds of the very first collection of the *Propagation of the Faith* was sent to the Church here—to Kentucky and the vast diocese of Louisiana, which then extended from the Florida Keys to Canada. Philadelphia, from the beginning, was one of the first recipients of help from the *Propagation of the Faith*. Years of such assistance helped build schools and churches, provide for the education and work of Priests and Religious and support evangelization here at home. Concurrently, **World Mission Sunday, 2008** will also honor the many Missionaries from Europe who brought the Lord’s gift of faith and His message of hope to our people here.

As we remember our own Mission history this **World Mission Sunday**, we can offer our prayers and financial help for the young and growing churches of the Missions today. Your generosity through the *Propagation of the Faith* will reach those who await the “Good News” of Jesus, who long to experience His hope and love.

Please be as generous as your means will allow this **World Mission Sunday**. In accord with the message of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, let us join together in prayer, that our celebration will encourage all of us to rediscover the word of God in our lives and our urgent need to proclaim the Gospel.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

weekend of October 11 and 12; the collection is to be taken the following weekend of October 18 and 19. Collection remittal should be made payable to: ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith*, 222 North 17 Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

October, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

At Baptism, we are called to be Christ's witnesses. As such, we are called to share our faith with those around us and to support, in prayer and sacrifice, the work of the missionaries who bring the "Good News" of Jesus to faraway places.

On October 24th, *World Mission Sunday* will unite us as Catholics in our own baptismal vocation to be missionaries. This year, our focus turns to prayer and the *World Mission Rosary*. This Rosary, inaugurated by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in 1951, then National Director of the *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith*, reminds us that we must pray for the whole world.

The *World Mission Rosary* was designed with this intention in mind. Each of the five decades is of a different color to represent each of the five continents of the world. Please pray daily for our missionaries and for the people they serve. And, please consider praying a Rosary for the Missions. Archbishop Sheen stated that, "when the *World Mission Rosary* is completed, one has embraced all continents, all people in the world in prayer."

More than 1,150 missionary dioceses throughout the world count on your prayers and generous response this *World Mission Sunday*. May all of us here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia be faithful to our call to be eager and effective witnesses to Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Justin Card. Rigali*

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of **October 16 and 17**; the collection is to be taken the following weekend of **October 23 and 24**. Collection remittance should be made payable to: ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith*, 222 North 17 Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. For more about this important celebration of the universal Church, please visit the special *World Mission Sunday* website: www.iamamissionary.org.)



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

October 1, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At Baptism, each of us becomes a *missionary* who is called by our Lord to be a part of the Church's mission of evangelization by sharing our faith with those around us.

On October 18th, we will celebrate ***World Mission Sunday***; and we will reflect on Pope Benedict's "Year of the Priest" message. All priests, and particularly Missionary priests, can help us learn to be examples of living our faith with zeal and of becoming incisive witnesses of the Gospel in today's world. We celebrate all priests and missionaries who quietly present Christ's words and actions each day and reach out to those who await the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Before returning to His Father, Jesus promised His followers that He would send the Holy Spirit. He charged them with the task of being His "witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). That *mission* is now addressed to each one of us. We are called to support by prayer and sacrifice the work of missionaries who bring the Good News of Jesus to such faraway places as Asia and Africa, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America.

Please pray daily for our missionaries and for the people they serve. On this ***World Mission Sunday***, please show your support by being as generous as your means will allow. May all of us here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia be faithful to our call to be eager and effective witnesses to Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

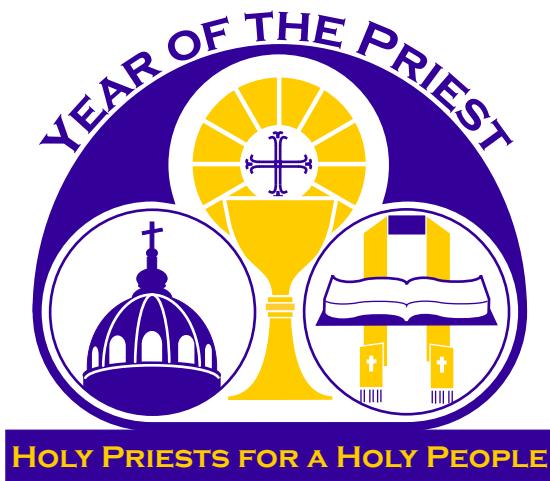
+ Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of October 10 and 11; the collection is to be taken the following weekend of October 17 and 18. Collection remittal should be made payable to: ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith*, 222 North 17 Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)



HOLY PRIESTS FOR A HOLY PEOPLE



HOLY PRIESTS FOR A HOLY PEOPLE

Year of the Priest Logo

Blue and Gold 1r1

Mike Leonard, Designer
June 2009



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Cardinal
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

June 21, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With these words, *holy priests for a holy people*, I am pleased to announce the observance of the *Year of the Priest* in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has called for this year of grace for the whole Church as a new opportunity for priests to grow in holiness and live more fully united to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and for all the members of the Church to recall the essential role of priests among us and in society.

The universal observance of the *Year of the Priest* began with the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus just celebrated this past Friday, June 19th, and will conclude on the same date next year in Rome with a worldwide meeting of priests with our Holy Father. A significant part of this *Year of the Priest* is the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the death of the Curé of Ars, Saint John Vianney, who continues to inspire all of us as a priest ever at the service of his people.

As Archbishop of Philadelphia, I invite everyone in the Archdiocese, all priests and all the faithful, in solidarity with our Holy Father, to observe the *Year of the Priest* as a splendid opportunity to reflect on the gift of the priesthood of Jesus shared with his priests. This gift belongs to the whole Church and is for the whole Church. I ask of you, sharers and benefactors of this gift from Jesus, to participate wholeheartedly in this *Year of the Priest* here in Philadelphia.

Our primary participation is through prayer. Pray for priests. Pray for priests as they announce God's Holy Word and celebrate the Sacraments. Pray for their holiness.

An archdiocesan Prayer for Priests will be made widely available for use in our parishes, schools and religious education programs and other institutions. I invite you to pray this prayer as families, in parish groups, and alone. I especially encourage praying for priests in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

I also invite you to participate through the many programs to be offered throughout the year by the Archdiocese and our parishes. Those to be offered by the Archdiocese have been published in the *Catholic Standard and Times*, this past Thursday, June 18. One of these programs includes an opportunity for every parish for one week during this year to pray for our priests through the intercession of St. John Vianney as his statue and relic travel from parish to parish throughout the Archdiocese.

This *Year of the Priest* offers all of us a unique occasion for many blessings. May our observance of this *Year of the Priest* truly provide the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with *holy priests for a holy people!*

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

**Installation of Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap.
on Thursday, September 8, 2011**

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office for Communications will provide live, streaming video online and to mobile devices at www.archphila.org. Full coverage begins at 1:40 p.m. with the Procession.

Other live coverage includes:

EWTN Global Catholic Network will broadcast live beginning at 1:45 p.m.

(**Encore -September 9th, 12 midnight**) Visit www.ewtn.com for channel information.

Holy Spirit Radio 1570 AM and 1420 AM will broadcast live starting at 2:00 p.m.

NBC 10 Digital on Comcast Channel 248 and Verizon Channel 460 starting at 1:45 p.m.

For questions please contact the Office for Communications at communof@adphila.org or 215-587-3747.



Evaluación Profunda de la Vida Parroquial

Oración: llamado a la conversión y a la santidad

O Dios y Padre de todos, nos diste la Iglesia como signo de nuestra salvación en tu hijo Jesús.

Oramos por todos los miembros de la Iglesia en la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia: Obispos, sacerdotes, diáconos, religiosos y laicos, que podamos siempre estar unidos con Cristo y su misión.

Te encomendamos a ti todas nuestras parroquias, escuelas e instituciones, sus muchos desafíos y necesidades de nuestro tiempo, que éstas puedan crecer en la fidelidad al Evangelio y en su modo de vida.

Te pedimos por la gracia de una mayor participación de los sacramentos, especialmente la sagrada eucaristía y la penitencia, que éstas puedan ser las semillas de una vida de fe y vocación sacerdotal más profunda.

Quiera que la Santísima Virgen María, san Juan Neumann y santa Catalina Drexel obtengan para todos nosotros en la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia un renovado compromiso a la conversión de corazón y la santidad de vida.

Pedimos esto por Cristo Nuestro Señor

Amén

Otoño 2011

Estamos bendecidos en la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia por lo vibrante de muchas comunidades parroquiales, por la fidelidad de nuestros sacerdotes, el servicio de nuestros diáconos, la contribución de nuestros religiosos, y la activa participación de nuestros laicos. Este vibrar demanda que continuemos siendo proactivos garantizando que nuestras parroquias continúen teniendo lo que es necesario para que logren alcanzar su rol en la misión de Cristo. Para hacer eso se requiere que examinemos las características demográficas de nuestras parroquias a la luz del número de sacerdotes disponibles para servir nuestras comunidades, a la luz de la migración de nuestra gente y a la luz de nuestros recursos financieros para mantener y apoyar a nuestras parroquias.

Dicho examen en sí mismo es «un momento de gran esperanza» para cada comunidad parroquial. Esto sirve como una oportunidad para renovar el compromiso de la gente a las prioridades de nuestra fe católica y nuestra familia arquidiocesana. Esto también llama a los dones de todos en la parroquia y presenta una oportunidad para la colaboración apropiada al estado de vida de cada persona.

Llamado a la conversión y santidad
Carta Pastoral, Octubre 19 del 2010
Cardenal Justin Rigali

Visión general

La **Evaluación profunda de la vida parroquial** es un proceso diseñado para el comité de implementación parroquial a renovar la vida y eventos de cada parroquia en relación con la misión de la Iglesia. Este proceso está dividido en siete áreas de concentración para ser tratado en las reuniones mensuales durante el año.

1. Una parroquia en alabanza: oración y vida sacramental
2. Una parroquia acogedora y solidaria: familia y comunidad
3. Una parroquia testigo y proclamadora: invitación y evangelización
4. Una parroquia educativa y formativa: iniciación y formación de la fe
5. Una parroquia acogedora de los demás: alcance pastoral y servicio a la justicia
6. Una parroquia administrada efectivamente: liderazgo y cuidado de los edificios, personal y finanzas.
7. Una parroquia con dones, responsabilidad viva: formación y práctica del Administrar

Proceso

Cada área de concentración invita al comité de implementación a: mirar a la vida y acontecimientos de la parroquia a la luz de la misión de Cristo; evaluar las condiciones externas que afectan a la parroquia y establecer prioridades para 3-5 años.

Antes de cada reunión, los miembros de la comisión deberán recibir, reflexionar sobre y llenar la encuesta parroquial. En la reunión mensual, cada miembro comparte lo que ellos ven como cualidades y debilidades en esa área particular de la vida parroquial. Es sobre esta discusión que dos o tres prioridades acordadas son determinadas. El comité entonces desarrollará acciones concretas, tiempos y responsabilidades para alcanzar las prioridades.

A la conclusión de esta evaluación profunda, los resultados serán compartidos con todos los miembros de la parroquia. Los resultados también serán compartidos con los obispos regionales al tiempo de la visita canónica parroquial. Un breve resumen de los resultados será mandado a la Oficina Arquidiocesana de Planeación de Actividades.

Proceso de evaluación profunda de la vida parroquial

Reunión de preparación

- **Para empezar**

- Convocar el comité establecido para tratar acerca de la carta pastoral: *Llamado a la conversión y santidad*. Este comité consiste del consejo de pastoral parroquial y representantes del consejo de finanzas de la parroquia, escuela católica, programa de educación religiosa y otros feligreses activos.
- Considerar usar un facilitador entrenado para asistir en este proceso. Para información llamar a la Oficina de Investigación y Planeamiento al 215-587-3545.
- Programar reuniones desde octubre hasta mayo
- Proveer materiales para cada miembro del comité antes de cada reunión
 - La encuesta parroquial perteneciente a la materia a tratar de ese mes (cada miembro debería leer y completarla antes de la reunión)
 - Agenda para ese mes

Agenda de reuniones y encuestas parroquiales pueden ser bajadas de:
http://archphila.org/conversion/conversion_index.htm

- **Tiempos sugeridos para los temas mensuales**

- Una parroquia en alabanza: oración y vida sacramental, Oct. 2011
- Una parroquia acogedora y solidaria: familia y comunidad, Nov. 2011
- Una parroquia testigo y proclamadora: invitación y evangelización, Enero 2011
- Una parroquia educativa y formativa: iniciación y formación de la fe, Feb. 2011
- Una parroquia acogedora de los demás: alcance pastoral y servicio a la justicia. Marzo 2012
- Una parroquia administrada efectivamente: liderazgo y cuidado de los edificios, personal y finanzas. Abril 2011
- Una parroquia con dones, responsabilidad viva: formación y práctica del Administrar. Mayo 2011

- **Agenda para las reuniones**

- Oración inicial
 - Enfoque
 - Reflexión
 - Debate sobre la encuesta parroquial
 - Pasos de acción
 - Próxima reunión
 - Oración final
-
- (En la primera reunión, establezcan los días para el resto de las reuniones)

Una parroquia en alabanza:

Oración y vida sacramental

Octubre 2011 – Agenda de la reunión - #1

- **Oración inicial**
 - Leer y reflexionar: Hechos de los apóstoles 2:42-47
«Ellos mismo se dedicaron a las enseñanzas de los apóstoles y de la vida comunitaria, a partir el pan y a la oración»
 - Compartir: ¿De qué modo nuestra vida de oración parroquial fortalece nuestra comunidad?
- **Enfoque**
 - Ver la cualidad de nuestra oración, alabanza y vida sacramental y entonces desarrollar pasos de acción para profundizarlos.
- **Reflexión**
 - *Sacrosanctum concilium*, Constitución de la sagrada liturgia, SC#2
«La liturgia es. . . el mensaje sobresaliente por el cual los fieles pueden expresar en sus vidas, y manifestar a los otros, el misterio de Cristo y la naturaleza real de la verdadera Iglesia.»
 - Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, #1074, SC# 10
«La liturgia es la cúspide hacia la cual la actividad de la Iglesia es dirigida; es también la fuente de la cual todo el poder fluye. Es por lo tanto el lugar privilegiado para catequizar al pueblo de Dios.»
- **Observar las estadísticas** (www.archphila.org click parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010)
 - Reporte al párroco: página 1- sección 2, página 2- sección 1 Reporte pastoral anual: #36-73, 150
- **Debate sobre la encuesta parroquial- Una parroquia en alabanza**

Cada persona debería haber leído y llenado esto antes de la reunión.

Usando la encuesta parroquial como guía, reflexionen sobre estas preguntas:

 - ¿Cuáles son las cualidades de nuestra parroquia?
 - ¿Cuáles son las debilidades/desafíos de nuestra parroquia?
 - ¿Qué prioridades ya en acuerdo vamos a enfrentar?
- **Pasos de acción** (contesten estas preguntas para CADA prioridad)
 - ¿Qué acciones específicas tomaremos para enfrentar esta prioridad?
 - ¿Quién será el responsable?
 - ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será alcanzado?
 - ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será evaluado?
- **Próxima reunión**
 - Día, hora, lugar y asignar las tareas
- **Oración final** – llamada a la conversión y a la santidad

Encuesta parroquial – 1 Octubre 2011 Parroquia en alabanza - Oración y vida sacramental	¿Esto sucede?	*¿Qué tan bien sucede?	**¿Qué tan importante es?
	Sí/No		
1. Los feligreses reconocen la alabanza como el centro y el punto de enfoque por el cual todo lo demás fluye			
2. La misa dominical es celebrada con reverencia de una manera fiel a las normas litúrgicas y a los lineamientos arquidiocesanos			
3. El número de las misas dominicales es apropiado con el número de feligreses, y el espacio para la alabanza es apropiado			
4. La misa dominical es ofrecida en la lengua/s hablada/s por los feligreses			
5. De acuerdo a las normas litúrgicas, entrenamiento es ofrecido por la parroquia a través de programas arquidiocesanos para los ministros de la liturgia, incluyendo lectores, ministros extraordinarios de la comunión, ministros de la música (directores, coros, cantores, músicos), servidores del altar, acomodadores, etc.			
6. Los ministros de la liturgia totalmente representan a la comunidad parroquial			
7. Oportunidades regulares para la celebración del sacramento de la penitencia/reconciliación son ofrecidos de acuerdo con las normas litúrgicas, lineamientos arquidiocesanos, como también a las necesidades y conveniencia de los feligreses.			
8. La catequesis y la celebración del bautismo son ofrecidos de acuerdo a los lineamientos arquidiocesanos			
9. Preparación efectiva para como también el sacramento del matrimonio son ofrecidos de acuerdo a la ley de la Iglesia y los lineamientos arquidiocesanos			
10. La catequesis y la celebración de la primera confesión, primera comunión y confirmación son provistas en acuerdo con los lineamientos arquidiocesanos			
11. Sacerdotes y laicos planean y participan juntos en la celebración de los sacramentos, dedicando los recursos apropiados a estas celebraciones			
12. Hay un comité apropiadamente formado para asistir en la coordinación e implementación de la vida litúrgica parroquial con la apropiada catequesis para todos.			
13. Homilías son provistas todos los domingos y los días festivos de misa (incluso la misa durante la semana) siguiendo las normas de predicación.			
14. Las liturgias están organizadas en variados tiempos para satisfacer las necesidades de los feligreses, teniendo en cuenta los horarios de misa de las parroquias vecinas			
15. La devoción de las cuarenta horas es celebrada anualmente			
16. Oportunidades frecuentes y regulares son ofrecidas para la exposición del Santísimo Sacramento			
17. La celebración regular de la Liturgia de las Horas es provista como parte de la vida de oración de la parroquia			
18. Cuidado pastoral efectivo por los Ritos Funerales Católicos es provisto de acuerdo al Orden de Funerales Cristianos			

19. Ministerio efectivo y continuo a las personas afligidas es provisto a través de un programa estructurado o un cuidado más informal, incluyendo reuniones con la familia afligida para planear la liturgia funeraria y entierro.			
20. Suficientes servicios devocional y culturalmente sensibles son ofrecidos para satisfacer las necesidades de todos los feligreses.			
21. El sacramento de la unción de los enfermos es celebrado, individual y comunitariamente, como la necesidad pastoral lo demanda.			
22. Celebración regular de los sacramentos es ofrecida para los feligreses quienes están confinados en la casa.			
23. Los ritos litúrgicos de los de los Ritos de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos (R.I.C.A) son celebrados para iniciar a adultos y niños de edad catequética, y recibir a los cristianos bautizados en la comunión completa.			
24. Registros precisos de los sacramentos parroquiales y registro de las intenciones de misas son mantenidos de acuerdo la ley de la iglesia y los lineamientos arquidiocesanos.			

*3- bueno 2- adecuado 1- necesita atención **3-esencial 2-importante 1-no importante ahora

Una parroquia acogedora y solidaria:

Familia y comunidad

Noviembre 2011 – Agenda de la reunión - #2

- **Oración inicial**

- **Leer y reflexionar:** Hechos de los apóstoles 4:32-35

«No había persona necesitada entre ellos, aquellos que poseían propiedades o casas las vendían, training las ganancias de la venta, y las ponían a los pies de los apóstoles, y ellos las distribuían a cada uno de acuerdo a la necesidad.»

- **Compartir:** ¿de qué modo nuestra parroquia cuida de aquellos en necesidad?

- **Enfoque**

- Evaluar el ser testigos de una comunidad acogedora y caritativa y entonces desarrollar pasos de acción para profundizarlos.

- **Reflexión**

- *Ecclesia in America* #41

«La parroquia es un lugar privilegiado donde los fieles concretamente experimentan la Iglesia. Las parroquias están llamadas a ser acogedoras y fraternales... atentas a la diversidad cultural de la gente, abiertas a proyectos pastorales que van más allá de la propia parroquia... La parroquia puede ser la fuente de gran esperanza. Puede unir gente en comunidad, asistir la vida familiar, superar el sentido de anonimato, recibir gente y ayudarlos a estar envueltos en su vecindario y en sociedad.»

- Directorio General de la Catequesis, USCCB, #257

«La parroquia está llamada a ser una familia fraternal y acogedora donde los cristianos se hacen conscientes de ser el pueblo de Dios.»

- **Observar las estadísticas** (www.archphila.org clic parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010) Reporte al párroco: página 1- sección 1, U.S. Censo #1, Reporte anual pastoral: #74-76. 84-85, 145-150

- **Debate sobre la encuesta parroquial – Una parroquia acogedora y solidaria.**

Cada persona tendría que haber leído y llenado esto antes de la reunión

Usando la encuesta parroquial como guía, reflexionen sobre estas preguntas:

- ¿Cuáles son las cualidades de nuestra parroquia?
- ¿Cuáles son las debilidades/desafíos de nuestra parroquia?
- ¿Qué prioridades ya en acuerdo vamos a enfrentar?

- **Pasos de acción** (contesten estas preguntas para cada prioridad)

- ¿Qué acciones específicas tomaremos para enfrentar esta prioridad?
- ¿Quién será el responsable?
- ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será alcanzado?
- ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será evaluado?

- **Próxima reunión**

- Día, hora, lugar y asignar las tareas

- **Oración final** – Llamada a la conversión y a la santidad

Encuesta parroquial – 2 Noviembre 2011	Una parroquia acogedora y solidaria – Familia y Comunidad	¿Esto sucede?	*¿Qué tan bien sucede?	**¿Qué tan importante es?
		Sí/No		
1.	Los feligreses crean y alimentan un fuerte sentido de comunidad. Los miembros se identifican a ellos mismos con la Iglesia católica y con su comunidad parroquial y buscan mejorarla.			
2.	La parroquia permite y forma líderes laicos, proveyendo ministerio colaborativo. El envolvimiento y liderazgo de laicos refleja el aspecto creativo de la parroquia. (jóvenes y adultos, hombres y mujeres, razas, nacionalidades, lenguaje, grupos).			
3.	La parroquia provee cuidado pastoral para familias a través de grupos para padres, ministerio para los divorciados, separados, personas en matrimonios o familias con problemas, y para los afligidos.			
4.	La parroquia ofrece oportunidades de formación para familias las cuales promueven la oración familiar, catequesis en la casa, participación en la vida sacramental de la Iglesia como también entendimiento y ser testigos de la fe y moral católica.			
5.	La parroquia promueve un sentido de pertenencia y una atmósfera de hospitalidad.			
6.	Los que saludan dan la bienvenida a los visitantes y feligreses nuevos en la misa			
7.	La parroquia continuamente organiza visita de las casas			
8.	La parroquia ofrece frecuentes encuentros de hospitalidad después de la misa y los eventos sociales anuales			
9.	El personal de la rectoría de la parroquia (de tiempo completo y medio tiempo) es hospitalario y considerado en la interacción con otros			
10.	La parroquia ofrece comunicación regular y efectiva con los feligreses, a través de los boletines dominicales, paquetes de información, cartas, emails y el sitio de internet			
11.	La parroquia provee algún tipo de cuidado de niños, como también liturgia de la palabra para niños, durante alguna de las misas dominicales y otras funciones significativas			
12.	La parroquia ofrece ministerio regular y efectivo a personas que son mayores, enfermas o que permanecen en la casa			
13.	La parroquia hace un esfuerzo especial en incluir padres solteros, personas divorciadas y otras con necesidades únicas.			
14.	La parroquia ofrece bienvenidas y ofrece una vibrante oportunidad espiritual, litúrgica, social y cultural para los varios grupos étnicos, en particular recientes inmigrantes a este país.			
15.	La parroquia ofrece un ministerio accesible y efectivo a personas discapacitadas, incluyéndolos en todos los aspectos de la vida parroquial.			

Una parroquia testigo y proclamadora:

Invitación y evangelización

Enero 2012 – Agenda de la reunión - #3

- **Oración inicial**

- **Leer y reflexionar:** Mateo 28:18-20

«Entonces Jesús se acercó y les dijo: “Todo poder en el cielo y en la tierra me ha sido dado. Vayan, por lo tanto, y hagan discípulos de todas las naciones... enseñándoles a observar todo lo que Yo les he mandado”.»

- **Compartir:** ¿De qué modo nuestra parroquia testifica y proclama la fe?

- **Enfoque**

- Evaluar la efectividad de parroquia testigo y proclamadora y entonces desarrollar pasos de acción.

- **Reflexión**

- **Vayan y hagan discípulos #10**

«La evangelización es traer la Buena Noticia de Jesús en cada situación humana y buscar convertir individuos y la sociedad por medio del poder divino del Evangelio mismo.»

Código de derecho canónico #528

«El párroco... debe hacer todo esfuerzo con la ayuda de los fieles cristianos, de llevar el mensaje del Evangelio también a aquellos quienes han dejado de practicar su religión o quienes no profesan la fe verdadera.»

- **Observar las estadísticas** (www.archphila.org click parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010) Reporte al párroco: página 1- sección 3, U.S. Censo #2-3, Reporte anual pastoral: #103-123

- **Debate sobre la encuesta parroquial** – una parroquia testigo y proclamadora.

Cada persona tendría que haber leído y llenado esto antes de la reunión

Usando la encuesta parroquial como guía, reflexionen sobre estas preguntas:

- ¿Cuáles son las cualidades de nuestra parroquia?
- ¿Cuáles son las debilidades/desafíos de nuestra parroquia?
- ¿Qué prioridades ya en acuerdo vamos a enfrentar?

- **Pasos de acción** (contesten estas preguntas para cada prioridad)

- ¿Qué acciones específicas tomaremos para enfrentar esta prioridad?
- ¿Quién será el responsable?
- ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será alcanzado?
- ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será evaluado?

- Próxima reunión

- Día, hora, lugar y asignar las tareas

- **Oración final** – Llamada a la conversión y a la santidad

Encuesta parroquial – 3 Enero 2012 Una parroquia testigo y proclamadora: Invitación y evangelización	¿Esto sucede?	*¿Qué tan bien sucede?	**¿Qué tan importante es?
	Si/No		
1. La parroquia tiene programas activos de evangelización para compartir la fe y misión católica y recursos apropiados se hacen disponibles para apoyar sus esfuerzos			
2. La parroquia ofrece oportunidades para aquellos que no son parte de la comunidad católica para aprender sobre la fe católica y participar en el R.I.C.A.			
3. La parroquia ofrece, en cuanto sea necesario y posible, programas efectivos de renovación espiritual parroquial.			
4. La parroquia ofrece y promueve oportunidades variadas de experiencias de oración, como oración carismática, fe compartida.			
5. El párroco activamente trabaja en la convalidación de matrimonios y pastoralmente ofrece contacto con sensibilidad y tacto con parejas que cohabitán para asistirlos en su situación y fe.			
6. A través de varios programas, la parroquia ofrece llegar a personas que han llegado a ser extrañas de la Iglesia. (Católicos retornando a casa, <i>Landings</i>)			
7. La parroquia provee oportunidades para el discernimiento vocacional, como también acercamientos regulares y estructurados a la oración por las vocaciones, incluyendo el sacerdocio, diaconado permanente, vida consagrada, matrimonio y vida soltera.			
8. La parroquia ofrece y publicita oportunidades de retiros y formación de la fe para todas las personas, edades y grupos de miembros dirigentes, como también días de oración y ejercicios espirituales para personal de la parroquia y todos los feligreses.			
9. La parroquia ofrece oportunidades de educación/formación para los laicos, en respuesta al carácter distintivo y primario de su vocación. Este carácter secular es expresado en el llamado de los laicos en la Iglesia de llevar el Evangelio a las estructuras de la sociedad: vida familiar, vida política, trabajo, ciencia y arte, medios de comunicación.			
10. La parroquia ofrece modos de llegar a los adultos jóvenes en todas las áreas relacionadas con la fe.			
11. La parroquia asegura oportunidades para los feligreses para desarrollar espíritu misionero y apoyo de los esfuerzos misioneros.			
12. Hay una persona designada para contactar en lo concerniente a la evangelización de la parroquia.			
13. El párroco nombra un representante parroquial para asuntos ecuménicos e interreligiosos quien está encargado de la promoción y planeamiento de la actividad ecuménica.			

*3- bueno

2- adecuado

1- necesita atención

**3-esencial

2-importante

1-no importante ahora

**Una parroquia educativa y formativa:
Iniciación y formación de la fe**
Febrero 2012 – Agenda de la reunión - #4

- **Oración inicial**
 - **Leer y reflexionar:** Deuteronomio 6:4-9
 - «**Guarda** estas palabras en tu corazón con las cuales les ordeno hoy. Atorníllenlas en sus hijos. Hablen de ellas en la casa y en todos lados, ya sea cuando estén ocupados o descansando. Átenselas en la cintura como signo déjenlas ser como pendientes en sus frentes. Escríbanlas en los postes de la entrada de sus casas y en sus portones.»
 - **Compartir:** ¿De qué modo nuestra parroquia asiste a todos los miembros para crecer en su fe?
- **Enfoque**
 - Evaluar la efectividad de la parroquia en compartir la fe a todos los niveles de edades y entonces desarrollar pasos de acción.
- **Reflexión**
 - **Directorio general para la catequesis #257**
«La parroquia es, sin lugar a dudas, el lugar más importante en el cual la comunidad cristiana se forma y se expresa. La parroquia es también el lugar usual en el cual nace la fe y en el cual crece... el primer motor y el lugar preeminente para la catequesis.»
 - **Directorio nacional para la catequesis #22**
«La catequesis desarrolla un entendimiento más profundo del misterio de Cristo, empuja a una incorporación más profunda dentro de la Iglesia, y nutre el vivir cristiano.»
- **Observar las estadísticas -** (www.archphila.org clic parishes, locate parish, clic Pastoral Planning Area, clic Report to Pastor 2010)
 - **Reporte al párroco:** página 1- sección 3, U.S. Censo #3, Reporte de la escuela página 1, 2,
Reporte pastoral anual: #103-130
- **Debate sobre la encuesta parroquial – una parroquia educativa y formativa.**

Cada persona tendría que haber leído y llenado esto antes de la reunión
Usando la encuesta parroquial como guía, reflexionen sobre estas preguntas:

 - ¿Cuáles son las cualidades de nuestra parroquia?
 - ¿Cuáles son las debilidades/desafíos de nuestra parroquia?
 - ¿Qué prioridades ya en acuerdo vamos a enfrentar?
- **Pasos de acción** (contesten estas preguntas para cada prioridad)
 - ¿Qué acciones específicas tomaremos para enfrentar esta prioridad?
 - ¿Quién será el responsable?
 - ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será alcanzado?
 - ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será evaluado?
- **Próxima reunión**
 - Día, hora, lugar y asignar las tareas
- **Oración final** – Llamada a la conversión y a la santidad

Encuesta parroquial – 4 Febrero 2012 Una parroquia educativa y formativa Iniciación y formación de la fe	¿Esto sucede?	*¿Qué tan bien sucede?	**¿Qué tan importante es?
	Si/No		
1. Los feligreses están comprometidos a la educación religiosa y la formación espiritual de los adultos y niños para traerlos a un más profundo entendimiento de la doctrina de la Iglesia, a la conversión a Cristo y el testimonio personal de la fe. Los recursos apropiados serán entonces puestos al servicio del apoyo de sus esfuerzos.			
2. En apoyo a los padres, quienes tienen la responsabilidad dada por Dios de ser los primeros maestros de la fe, la parroquia ofrece una escuela elemental y/o un programa de educación religiosa parroquial.			
3. La escuela parroquial tiene una fuerte identidad católica demostrada por el comité facultativo católico comprometido con la vida católica y la educación, la celebración de los sacramentos y las devociones, servicio a los necesitados, un programa compuesto totalmente por maestros calificados, y un programa organizado de evangelización cuando sirve a una comunidad significantemente no católica.			
4. La parroquia incorpora totalmente la escuela parroquial en la vida de la parroquia. El subsidio de la parroquia hacia la escuela no es un excesivo porcentaje del presupuesto entero de la escuela, y la parroquia no tiene un excesivo porcentaje de su entrada total dirigido hacia el presupuesto operativo de la escuela.			
5. Los maestros de la escuela son propiamente recibidos, cualificados, competentes y remunerados.			
6. La formación apropiada es ofrecida para todos los maestros de la escuela y catequistas parroquiales, de acuerdo a los lineamientos arquidiocesanos.			
7. La parroquia provee un programa efectivo de educación religiosa y de formación para todos los niños y jóvenes, incluyendo inmigrantes, aquellos cuya lengua primaria no es inglés, niños con discapacidades, como también miembros de comunidades étnicas, en los grados de jardín de infantes y grado 12			
8. Un número adecuado de catequistas y de personal de apoyo, propiamente educados, es ofrecido para el programa de educación religiosa.			
9. La parroquia ofrece programas de preparación sacramental para candidatos, padrinos de los candidatos y para los padres de los candidatos, incluyendo aquellos en los que la lengua principal no es inglés.			
10. La parroquia tiene un director/coordinador profesional recibido y cualificado para el programa de educación religiosa.			

11. La continua formación de la fe de todos los miembros de la parroquia es sensible a las necesidades culturales y lingüísticas de los feligreses.			
12. Hay un coordinador parroquial de la formación de la fe de adultos.			
13. Hay una formación inicial y continua de catequistas para adultos.			
14. La implementación de R.I.C.A. es coordinada por un líder parroquial y apoyada por un equipo de R.I.C.A			
15. La parroquia ofrece ministerio regular y efectivo a gente soltera.			
16. La parroquia ofrece ministerio regular y efectivo para jóvenes y jóvenes adultos el cual guiará su participación total dentro de una comunidad parroquial mayor.			
17. Hay un coordinador para el ministerio de jóvenes y jóvenes adultos.			

*3- bueno 2- adecuado 1- necesita atención **3-esencial 2-importante 1-no importante ahora

Una parroquia que responde a los demás:

Alcance pastoral y servicio a la justicia

Marzo 2012 – Agenda de la reunión - #5

- **Oración inicial**

- **Leer y reflexionar:** Mateo 25:35-40

«Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos con hambre y te dimos de comer, o sediento y te dimos de beber?...»

Amén, yo les digo, lo que hayan hecho por uno de estos de mis pobres hermanos, lo han hecho por mi.»

- **Compartir:** ¿De qué modo nuestra parroquia refleja este pasaje de la Escritura?

- **Enfoque**

- Evaluar la efectividad del alcance y servicio a los demás y entonces desarrollar pasos de acción.

- **Reflexión**

- **Papa Benedicto XVI, Mensaje del Santo Padre.** Mayo 26, 2009

«Vivir la caridad es la forma principal de misión. La palabra proclamada se hace visible cuando esta encarnada en actos de solidaridad y colaboración y en gestos que concretamente demuestran la cara de Cristo, el verdadero amigo de la humanidad.»

- **Vayan y hagan discípulos #18**

«El fruto de la evangelización es cambiar vidas y cambiar la santidad y la justicia, la espiritualidad y la paz del mundo.»

- **Observar las estadísticas** (www.archphila.org click parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010) Reporte al párroco: U.S. Censo #4, Reporte pastoral anual: #150

- **Debate sobre la encuesta parroquial** – una parroquia que responde a los demás.

Cada persona tendría que haber leído y llenado esto antes de la reunión

Usando la encuesta parroquial como guía, reflexionen sobre estas preguntas:

- ¿Cuáles son las cualidades de nuestra parroquia?
 - ¿Cuáles son las debilidades/desafíos de nuestra parroquia?
 - ¿Qué prioridades ya en acuerdo vamos a enfrentar?

- **Pasos de acción** (contesten estas preguntas para cada prioridad)

- ¿Qué acciones específicas tomaremos para enfrentar esta prioridad?
 - ¿Quién será el responsable?
 - ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será alcanzado?
 - ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será evaluado?

- **Próxima reunión**

- Día, hora, lugar y asignar las tareas

- **Oración final** – Llamada a la conversión y a la santidad

Encuesta parroquial – 5 Marzo 2012 Una parroquia que responde a los demás - Alcance pastoral y servicio a la justicia	¿Esto sucede?	*¿Qué tan bien sucede?	**¿Qué tan importante es?
	Si/No		
1. La parroquia demuestra caridad hacia los pobres (los sin casa, inmigrantes recientes y aquellos al margen de la sociedad) manteniéndose unidos a la Iglesia con la opción preferencial de los pobres.			
2. La parroquia identifica modos de trabajar por la paz y la justicia.			
3. La parroquia entra en diálogo, oración y servicio con otras denominaciones religiosas y su liderazgo.			
4. La parroquia hace crecer la conciencia de los feligreses sobre enseñanzas católicas en problemas sobre la vida, racial, problemas étnicos y culturales, problemas de paz y justicia, guiando a acciones apropiadas en la parroquia y el vecindario.			
5. Una porción de los recursos de la parroquia es designado para dar servicio a los pobres.			
6. La parroquia comparte, cuando es apropiado, recursos con parroquias locales y/o parroquias de los suburbios.			
7. La parroquia ofrece oportunidades para recolectar comida y ropa.			
8. La parroquia anima la participación en todos los aspectos de la vida civil, dando testimonio de los valores cristianos.			
9. Ministerio, incluyendo servicio de referidos, es ofrecido directamente o en colaboración con otras agencias, hacia personas con necesidades especiales.			
10. La parroquia participa en todas las colectas especiales arquidiocesanas para los pobres.			

*3- bueno 2- adecuado 1- necesita atención **3-esencial 2-importante 1-no importante ahora

**Una parroquia efectivamente administrada:
Liderazgo y cuidado de los edificios, personal y finanzas**

Abril 2012 – Agenda de la reunión - #6

● **Oración inicial**

- **Leer y reflexionar:** Corintios 12: 7-11

«Para cada individuo la manifestación del espíritu es dada por algún beneficio... Pero uno y el mismo espíritu produce todo esto, disturbándolos individualmente a cada persona como él desea.»

- **Compartir:** ¿Cómo los dones de la comunidad nos hacen una parroquia más vibrante?

● **Enfoque**

- Evaluar los muchos niveles de liderazgo, el uso de las estructuras y el uso de nuestras finanzas y entonces desarrollar pasos de acción.

● **Reflexión**

- **Papa Juan Pablo II, Sobre la formación de los sacerdotes en las circunstancias del presente #38**

«Hoy, el trabajo pastoral de mayor presión en la nueva evangelización llama a que se envuelva todo el pueblo de Dios, y requiere un nuevo fervor, nuevos métodos y una nueva expresión del anuncio y testimonio del evangelio. Este trabajo demanda sacerdotes que están profunda y totalmente inmersos en el misterio de Cristo y son capaces de incorporar un nuevo estilo de vida pastoral, marcado con una profunda comunión con el papa, obispos y sacerdotes, y una fructuosa cooperación con los fieles laicos, siempre respetando y encaminando los diferentes roles, carismas y ministerios del presente dentro de la comunidad eclesial.»

- **Iglesia en América #41**

«Las parroquias están llamadas ser abiertas a los muchos diferentes carismas, servicios y ministerios, organizados de un modo comunal y responsable... atentas a la diversidad cultural de la gente.»

- **Observar las estadísticas.** - (www.archphila.org click parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010)

- **Reporte al párroco:** U.S. página 1 – sección 1, US Censo, **Reporte pastoral anual: #86-102. Reporte financiero parroquial anual**, evaluación de los edificios, presupuesto operativo actual de la Iglesia y la escuela.

- **Debate sobre la encuesta parroquial** – Una parroquia administrada efectivamente

Cada persona tendría que haber leído y llenado esto antes de la reunión.

Usando la encuesta parroquial como guía, reflexionen sobre estas preguntas:

- ¿Cuáles son las cualidades de nuestra parroquia?
- ¿Cuáles son las debilidades/desafíos de nuestra parroquia?
- ¿Qué prioridades ya en acuerdo vamos a enfrentar?

- Pasos de acción (contesten estas preguntas para cada prioridad)

- ¿Qué acciones específicas tomaremos para enfrentar esta prioridad?
- ¿Quién será el responsable?
- ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será alcanzado?
- ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será evaluado?

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Encuesta parroquial – 6 Abril 2012 Una parroquia administrada efectivamente - Liderazgo y cuidado de los edificios, personal y finanzas	¿Esto sucede?	*¿Qué tan bien sucede?	**¿Qué tan importante es?
	Si/No		
1. Los feligreses reconocen y aceptan sus derechos y responsabilidades como bautizados católicos de participar totalmente en la vida de la Iglesia.			
2. El liderazgo pastoral anima la completa colaboración entre los feligreses asistiéndolos en un rol activo, responsable en la vida de la parroquia.			
3. La parroquia tiene un suficiente número de miembros en años de actividad que participan productivamente en el ministerio parroquial.			
4. El número de personal de la parroquia y voluntarios parroquiales, como también su entrenamiento y sentido de misión, son adecuados para llevar adelante todo el trabajo de la parroquia.			
5. La parroquia tiene espacios y archivos seguros para todos los documentos oficiales.			
6. El espacio para la alabanza es adecuado en espacio, diseño y ambiente sagrado para celebrar los ritos de la iglesia y para acomodar el número usual de fieles de acuerdo a las normas litúrgicas de la iglesia.			
7. La parroquia tiene edificios adecuados para hospedar los sacerdotes y religiosos de la parroquia.			
8. La parroquia tiene espacios adecuados para incentivar la educación y formación de los miembros.			
9. La iglesia tiene espacio (como centro, salón o auditorio) adecuado para las necesidades sociales de los feligreses.			
10. La parroquia tiene espacios adecuados para las áreas de trabajo del personal, reuniones, y grandes reuniones de personas.			
11. La parroquia tiene equipamiento/suministros (ej. Organizadores, copiadoras, y máquinas de fax) adecuados para funcionar efectivamente.			
12. La oficina parroquial y otros servicios de ayuda tienen el personal adecuado para operar efectivamente.			
13. Los servicios de custodia de la parroquia tiene el personal adecuado para cuidar y mantener todas las propiedades y edificios.			
14. La casa parroquial tiene todo el personal adecuado (la persona que limpia, cocinera) permitiendo a los sacerdotes dedicar suficiente tiempo a las responsabilidades pastorales.			
15. La parroquia tiene un gerente de finanzas para administrar y manejar los problemas, permitiendo a los sacerdotes dedicar suficiente tiempo a las responsabilidades pastorales.			
16. La parroquia está en cumplimiento de todas las leyes y regulaciones del gobierno como también las reglas y reglamentos			

arquidiocesanos en relación a personal, ambos salario y voluntariado, incluyendo el revisar la historia criminal.			
17. La parroquia está en cumplimiento de todas las leyes y regulaciones del gobierno como también las reglas y reglamentos arquidiocesanos en relación al propio reporte financiero y adherencia a los normas propias de contabilidad.			
18. La parroquia tiene comunicación regular y efectiva entre el personal (reuniones de personal) para asegurar que información precisa es compartida en el tiempo apropiado y promover la cooperación y colaboración entre el personal.			
19. Los feligreses pueden contactar al clérigo y otro personal durante las horas del día o por tarde y en casos de emergencia.			
20. La parroquia tiene un activo y efectivo comité de pastoral parroquial, que asiste al párroco a desarrollar, implementar y regularmente revisar el plan pastoral parroquial.			
21. La parroquia tiene un activo y efectivo comité de finanzas parroquiales constituido según las normas del derecho canónico y los lineamientos arquidiocesanos.			
22. La parroquia ha desarrollado un plan para alcanzar y mantener estabilidad financiera. Si se aplica, un plan de servicio de deuda es formulado.			
23. La parroquia tiene un programa efectivo de proveer donación sacrificial (administración)			
24. La parroquia ha desarrollado o tiene un comité de fondos para asistir en las necesidades de colectar fondos			
25. La parroquia cumple con las obligaciones financieras incluyendo aquellas a la Arquidiócesis (evaluaciones, fondos de pensión, planes de salud, colectas especiales).			
26. La parroquia tiene un balanceado presupuesto operacional.			
27. La parroquia ofrece reportes financieros anuales a la Arquidiócesis y feligreses.			
28. La parroquia tiene un preciso censo actual de miembros de la parroquia (un programa de computación mantenido desde el censo/visitación anual de parroquia).			
29. La parroquia toma responsabilidad activa, como es apropiado, en implementar los varios objetivos del plan pastoral del área.			
30.			

*3- bueno 2- adecuado 1- necesita atención **3-esencial 2-importante 1-no importante ahora

Una parroquia con dones, responsabilidad viva:

Formación y práctica del administrar (cuidado)

Mayo 2012 – Agenda de la reunión - #7

• **Oración inicial**

- **Leer y reflexionar:** Eclesiástico 35: 7-9
«Glorifica al Señor con generosidad y no mezquines las primicias de tus manos.
Da siempre con el rostro radiante y consagra el diezmo con alegría.
Da al Altísimo según lo que él te dio, y con generosidad, conforme a tus recursos.»

• **Enfoque**

- Evaluar de que modos un corazón generoso recibe retribución con creces.

• **Reflexión**

- **Código de derecho canónico #222**
«Los fieles tienen el deber de ayudar a la Iglesia en sus necesidades, de modo que disponga de lo necesario para el culto divino, las obras de apostolado y de caridad y el conveniente sustento de los ministros.»
- **El Administrar: La respuesta de un discípulo, USCCB**
«Como custodios cristianos, recibimos los dones de Dios gratuitamente, cultívenlos responsablemente, compártanlos amorosamente en justicia con los demás, y devuélvanlos con incremento al Señor.»

• **Observar las estadísticas** (www.archphila.org clic parishes, locate parish, click Pastoral Planning Area, click Report to Pastor 2010)

- **Reporte al párroco:** U.S. página 1 – sección 1,
Reporte pastoral anual: #130-145. Reporte financiero parroquial anual, evaluación de los edificios, (a disposición en 215-587-3560).

• **Debate sobre la encuesta parroquial** – una parroquia administrada efectivamente

Cada persona tendría que haber leído y llenado esto antes de la reunión

Usando la encuesta parroquial como guía, reflexionen sobre estas preguntas:

- ¿Cuáles son las cualidades de nuestra parroquia?
- ¿Cuáles son las debilidades/desafíos de nuestra parroquia?
- ¿Qué prioridades ya en acuerdo vamos a enfrentar?

• **Pasos de acción** (contesten estas preguntas para cada prioridad)

- ¿Qué acciones específicas tomaremos para enfrentar esta prioridad?
- ¿Quién será el responsable?
- ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será alcanzado?
- ¿Cómo y cuándo esto será evaluado?

• **Próxima reunión**

- Día, hora, lugar y asignar las tareas

• **Oración final** – Llamada a la conversión y a la santidad

Encuesta parroquial – 7 Mayo 2012 Una parroquia con dones, responsabilidad viva Formación y práctica del administrar (cuidado)	¿Esto sucede?	¿Qué tan bien sucede?	¿Qué tan importante es?
	Si/No		
1. Los feligreses reconocen la parroquia en sí misma como un regalo de Dios teniendo suficientes recursos para apoyar la misión de la parroquia.			
2. El párroco, el personal y los feligreses no están extremadamente preocupados por los eventos temporales a detrimento del ministerio pastoral.			
3. Los feligreses están suficientemente dispuestos a ayudar a la parroquia con su tiempo, talento y bienes.			
4. Feligreses y personal están dispuestos a colaborar con iglesias locales para satisfacer las necesidades de la comunidad de modo más efectivo.			
5. La parroquia enfatiza la oración y la completa participación en la vida sacramental de la iglesia como absolutamente fundamental para nutrir el plan y visión pastoral de la parroquia.			
6. La parroquia tiene un fuerte liderazgo pastoral y apoyo por el Administrar como está descrito en la Pastoral de los Obispo de los Estados Unidos, El Administrar: Respuesta de un discípulo. Los párrocos que practican el Administrar en sus propias			
7. La parroquia trata a sus empleados justamente en cuanto a salarios y beneficios.			
8. La parroquia tiene un comité del administrar funcional con la habilidad de acceder a recursos del administrar nacional tanto local como nacional.			
9. Los feligreses experimentan un crecimiento en la fe y en la conversión en Cristo a través de la participación de una vibrante comunidad parroquial.			
10. La parroquia ofrece formación para el administrar para feligreses de todas las edades.			
11. El párroco desafía a los feligreses a incrementar el sacrificio personal de tiempo, talento y bienes dentro de la parroquia y la comunidad mayor.			
12. La parroquia realiza renuevos anuales del compromiso a la parroquia de tiempo, talento y bienes.			
13. El párroco busca y da la bienvenida a nuevos líderes laicos para el servicio dentro de la parroquia y ofrece formación apropiada para ellos.			
14. El pastor informa a los feligreses de los buenos trabajos realizados a través de la generosidad de sus compromisos.			
15. La parroquia da una porción designada de sus recursos para el servicio de los pobres.			

Notas y tareas asignadas

Una parroquia en alabanza

..

Una parroquia acogedora y solidaria

..

Una parroquia testigo y proclamadora

..

Una parroquia educativa y formativa

..

Una parroquia acogedora de los demás

..

Una parroquia administrada efectivamente

..

Una parroquia con dones, responsabilidad viva



Strategic Plan

USCCB Mission

Leadership

Bishops and Dioceses

USCCB Offices

Pro Life Activities

Who We Are

Respect Life Program

Post-Abortion Healing

Abortion

Conscience Protection

Contraception

Euthanasia

Stem Cell Research

IVF/Reproductive

Technology

January Roe Events

Life Issues Forum

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PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

Your System Status

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IMPORTANT: After installing the required upgrade please reload this browser window to view the video player.

- [Carrying Christmas into the New Year](#), January 2, 2015 ([en español](#))
- [Learning to Cry](#), by Tom Grenchik, December 19, 2014 ([en español](#))
- [A Picture is Worth Countless Lives](#), by Mary McClusky, November 21, 2014 ([en español](#))
- [Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop Lori Urge Congress To Include Abortion Non-Discrimination Act In Funding Legislation](#), November 18, 2014
- [Fact Sheet: Abortion in the Affordable Care Act: Responses to Administration Claims](#), September 2014
- [Archbishop Lori and Cardinal O'Malley urge senators to oppose S. 2578's unprecedented attack on conscience and religious freedom](#). Learn more about this attack on religious freedom from the [S.2578 Backgrounder](#). Then, please join them in supporting religious freedom by contacting your senator. [Take action today!](#) !

Find Your Diocesan Office

Want to ask a pro-life question or offer to volunteer at the local level?

Search [here](#).

Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

The [Pastoral Plan](#) contains four major "pillars" that the Bishops have set forth as elements necessary for authentic Catholic pro-life efforts in America:

- Public Information & Education
- Public Policy
- Pastoral Care
- Prayer

How is God calling you to serve the Culture of Life?



[9daysforlife.com](#)



OBSERVING ROE V. WADE ANNIVERSARY

9 Days for Life

Saturday, January 17 – Sunday, January 25
Join thousands of Catholics across the country in prayer during the bishops' pro-life novena! (Leader [resources](#) are available.)

Sign up through email, text message, [Facebook](#), or a free iOS or Android app!
[www.9daysforlife.com](#)

Additional Resources

[Many additional prayer resources are available](#)

In English and Spanish to observe the 42nd anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade*.

NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE

Thousands of Catholics will join in [prayer](#) at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC from January 21-22, 2015. For more information, click [here](#).

CURRENT ACTION ALERT

[Urge Congress](#) to oppose S. 2578's unprecedented attack on conscience and religious freedom. To learn more, read the [action alert](#).

[Subscribe](#) to future pro-life action alerts.

POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

Call on Congress to prevent federal funding and promotion of abortion and to protect rights of conscience in health care.

Visit [www.usccb.org/postcards](#)

NATIONWIDE PRAYER CAMPAIGN

U.S. Bishops' Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty

Catholics are invited to participate personally and as a community in prayer, penance, and sacrifice for increased protections of religious liberty and for rebuilding a culture favorable to life and marriage.

[Learn more](#) about the Call to Prayer, [sign the pledge](#) to fast, [sign up](#) for weekly email or text message prayer and fasting reminders with specific [intentions](#), and join the [Facebook event!](#)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

[Post-abortion healing](#)

Order or download [2014-2015 Respect Life Program](#) materials!

[Love and Sexuality](#)

[Conscience Protection](#)

[People of Life](#)

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Anti-Trafficking Program	Communications	General Secretariat	Migration Policy
Canonical Affairs and Church Governance	Cultural Diversity in the Church	Government Relations	National Collections
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	Divine Worship	Human Resources	National Religious Retirement Office
Catholic Education	Doctrine	International Justice and Peace	New American Bible
Catholic News Service	Domestic Social Development	Justice, Peace & Human Development	Pro-life Activities
Child and Youth Protection	Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs	Laity, Marriage, Family Life & Youth	Religious Liberty
Children and Migration	Evangelization and Catechesis	Media Relations	Resettlement Services
Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations	General Counsel	Migration and Refugee Services	World Youth Day