



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.)