



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

February 25, 2009


Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his first encyclical, *God is Love (Deus Caritas Est)*, Pope Benedict XVI writes, “Love is the light - and in the end, the only light - that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working” (no.39).

You assist in bringing the light of hope to a needy world through your participation in the **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**. Your donation helps support seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral centers, schools and the spreading of the Gospel message through the mass media.

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,


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.)