



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