



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)