



Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
Office of the Cardinal  
222 North 17<sup>th</sup> 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]