



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

June 1, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I invite you to participate through prayer in the 49th International Eucharistic Congress which will be held in Quebec City, Canada from June 15 to June 22nd. The congress, whose theme is "The Eucharist, gift of God for the life of the world," is an event of special importance for our Church and for all the faithful in our Archdiocese and throughout the world.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has invited us to rediscover the reality of the Eucharist as a source of energy to transform our lives. This Eucharistic Congress responds to the invitation of our Holy Father: "Let us encourage one another to walk joyfully, our hearts filled with wonder, towards our encounter with the Holy Eucharist."

It will be my great honor to participate in the International Eucharistic Congress and to be joined by the pilgrims from our Archdiocese. I am enclosing a copy of the special Eucharistic Congress prayer for the event and I invite every parish to offer this prayer throughout the week of the Congress, in solidarity with the pilgrims who will be in Quebec.

May God bless you through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of our Eucharistic Lord and our Mother.

Sincerely yours,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

Enclosure

The Eucharist, gift of God for the life of the World

God our Father,
we bless you and give you thanks
for your Son Jesus, the gift of your love for the life of the world.

Watch over your Church as it celebrates in joy and hope
the 49th International Eucharistic Congress.

Renew our faith in the Holy Eucharist,
the memorial of your Son's death and resurrection.

May your Holy Spirit shed His light upon us
and grant us strength
to serve as faithful witnesses to the Gospel.

Nourish us with your Word and your Bread of Life
so that united with Mary,
the Mother of your Divine Son and Mother of the Church,
we will bear much fruit
for the salvation of the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.