



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

April 3, 2009


Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year we celebrate the day of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday as a day of prayer and fasting. It is a solemn day, contemplating the sacrifice which Jesus willingly undertook to redeem us from sin and death. It also has been our longstanding tradition as Catholics to offer alms in support of the Catholic community in the Holy Land and for the maintenance of the sacred sites of our redemption.

The present circumstances of the Christian community in the Holy Land continue to be fraught with tension, violence and terror. Our brothers and sisters there often feel isolated from the rest of the Church. Their numbers are small and their needs are great.

On behalf of those Christians and others in so much need, I seek your most generous and sacrificial support of the **Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land** on **April 10, 2009**. I know that God our Father will reward your generosity beyond all measure.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
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 **April 4 and 5, 2009**; the collection is taken up on **April 10, 2009 (Good Friday)**. Collection remittal is to be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to the Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)