



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

Lent 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Through the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our desire to conform ourselves more fully to Christ each day is given expression during this holy season through acts of penance. We have all been made one with Christ through Baptism. Penance offers us the opportunity to allow the sanctifying grace of this Sacrament to unfold more completely in our lives.

Efforts at reconciliation, concern for the salvation of one's neighbor, the practice of charity, care for the poor, prayer, the exercise and defense of justice and the endurance of persecution for righteousness' sake are all means by which we can take up our cross each day and become united to Christ more fully.

I encourage you to embrace these works of love of God and neighbor during the days of Lent so as to be prepared to renew the promises of your baptism at Easter and so be more fully a part of the life of Christ and his Church. In particular I recommend to all of you the reception of the Sacrament of Penance, by which our Lord Jesus Christ personally offers His mercy and love.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ ***Justin Card. Rigali***

Cardinal Justin Rigali

Archbishop of Philadelphia

[Please communicate this letter to the faithful during the weekend of February 13-14, 2010.]