



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

July 19, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

This morning it was my great privilege to announce to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia that our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has named Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., the 13th Bishop and 9th Archbishop of Philadelphia.

At the same time I announced that the Holy Father has named me the Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese until Archbishop Chaput's installation on September 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. In the interim I will serve with all the responsibilities of Archbishop. After the installation, I will begin my time of retirement in the Diocese of Knoxville, where I have been invited to live.

Archbishop Chaput is a bishop who will truly love you and faithfully preach the Gospel to you. He will work diligently to address the special needs of the Archdiocese at this time. Support him with your prayers and deep faith, so that the mission of the Church to proclaim the kingdom of God may advance steadily. Pray also for our auxiliary bishops and priests, who serve with such generosity and fidelity, that they may be fruitful collaborators with our new Archbishop.

For me, these past eight years as Archbishop of Philadelphia have been a time of great grace. Your faith and generous spirit have sustained me in countless ways and will continue to be a source of inspiration to me. I have been blessed to have encountered so many of you in my pastoral visits to our parishes, schools, hospitals, and other institutions. I am especially grateful to those of you—deacons, religious, and lay faithful—who have assisted me in my ministry in different ways in the Archdiocesan Office Center, on the many Archdiocesan boards and committees, and in our parishes and institutions.

As Archbishop, I have endeavored to serve you faithfully by presenting through my words and actions the person of Jesus Christ. If I have offended any one in any way, I am deeply sorry. I apologize for any weaknesses on my part in representing Christ and His Church worthily and effectively.

I assure you of my continued love and prayers and a special remembrance always at the altar as I celebrate Mass. Please pray for me that our Lord Jesus Christ may bless my years of retirement and make them fruitful in the service of His Church.

Asking the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, of Saint John Neumann, and of Saint Katharine Drexel for you all, I remain

Sincerely,

+ **Justin Card. Rigali**

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Apostolic Administrator