



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

December 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia catechumens and candidates for the Easter Sacraments come together week after week, especially on Sunday, to learn from God's Word the paths for conversion and grace in Christ. It is my privilege to invite those catechumens and candidates for full communion, who will be ready for the Lenten period of enlightenment to the *Celebration of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion Preparing for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church* at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

The celebration of this rite on the First Sunday of Lent is truly an action of the whole Church. May this occasion be a sign for you of God's favor as you are elected and called by the Archbishop, joined by his priests and the faithful, to progress toward Easter. We must keep in mind that through the Easter Sacraments we encounter the crucified and risen Lord. It is this Paschal Mystery of Jesus that transforms us to be His disciples and to witness to His kingdom through our daily words and works.

I look forward to this upcoming day of your election and call to continuing conversion and assure you of my prayers on your journey to Easter and to membership in the Church. I am most grateful to the priests, deacons, catechists, godparents and sponsors who accompany you on your way to Christ, His Sacraments and life in the Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ ***Justin Card. Rigali***

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

