



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

November, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Lord, speaking through the Prophet Jeremiah, says to his people: "I will give you shepherds according to my own heart" (Jeremiah 3:15). It is in this spirit that God calls men to serve as His priests. Since 1832, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary has assisted seminarians in their response to God's call and in forming them for priestly service in the Church.

Our Seminary prepares men for Ordination to the Holy Priesthood in a tradition of excellence that is well respected both nationally and internationally. This reputation stems from God's grace through a dedicated faculty and administration devoted to the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation of our seminarians who have responded with great courage and humility to God's call to bring Jesus Christ to people and people to Jesus Christ.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia recognizes the blessing that is Saint Charles Seminary. Each year we have a special collection to support the work and mission of Saint Charles Seminary. I am grateful for previous sacrifices which you have made to the **Annual Seminary Appeal**. Your financial assistance is evidence of your belief in the importance of priestly vocations and the good works performed at Saint Charles Seminary. I ask you again this year to consider prayerfully making whatever sacrificial contribution may be possible for you.

Your gift will provide opportunity to educate, train, and prepare priests for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, as well as many other dioceses throughout the United States and the world. Your gift will provide financial aid to all Philadelphia seminarians who otherwise might not be able to pursue their vocation. Your gift will fund new programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and provide new technology to share resources with priests and lay faithful around the Archdiocese and beyond.

It is during their years in the Seminary when these men discover more intimately the profound calling to be shepherds according to the heart of Jesus Christ. Your continued prayers and contributions are essential to the future of the Church in our Archdiocese. Please support the **Annual Seminary Appeal** so that these men can continue their preparations to serve you.

Through the intercession of Mary, our Mother, and Saint Charles Borromeo may our Lord Jesus bless you.

Sincerely yours,

Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of November 1 and 2, 2008)