



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

October 30, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During this year we join our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in celebrating the “Year of the Priest.” The year affords us many opportunities to reflect on the gift of the Priesthood and its importance in the life of the Church, and to pray for our priests, future priests, and an increase in vocations to the diocesan priesthood.

Saint John Vianney, Patron Saint of Parish Priests, refers to the Priesthood as the “*love of the heart of Jesus.*” Love of the heart of Jesus calls us to continually grow in our relationship with him and at the same time have our hearts transformed to love others as He has loved us. This is one of the goals of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary as it helps prepare men for ordination and service as Priests. We are so fortunate, here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, to have our own Seminary where all our future priests are formed. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, we currently have 48 young men who have encountered Jesus Christ and who are striving to respond to His call. They need your support so that they can share in His Priesthood.

In this *Year of the Priest*, the **Seminary Appeal** is more important than ever before. Your generosity each year for this appeal is extraordinary. I am grateful for your support in the past and appreciate all the sacrifices you make to support our Seminary. The annual goal of \$2.5 million is necessary to help reduce the costs for seminarian education and formation. The Appeal will also assist the Seminary in recovering from the economic downturn which has affected so many people and institutions this past year. Conscious that we have all felt the effects of the current challenging economic situation, I ask you please to make the sacrifice to offer a generous contribution to our Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Please help our courageous young men become priests. Our world and our Archdiocese desperately need them, for without the Priesthood there would be no Eucharist, and without the Eucharist there would be no Church.

Please know how grateful I am for your generosity to this important cause.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *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 October 31 and November 1, 2009.)