



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

November, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The words of Jesus, given in the Gospel context where he identifies himself as the Good Shepherd, reveal his mission towards humanity: “I came that they may have life and have it more abundantly.” Jesus extends in time this life-giving mission by the gift of the sacramental priesthood, where men are configured to the Good Shepherd.

Priests make Jesus present in the Eucharist, they bestow his power in word and sacrament, they proclaim his Kingdom, they impart life that does not end. Priests are sent forth so that people may have life and have it more abundantly.

The Seminary is the place where men are formed as priests to live the life-giving mission of Jesus. For this reason, the Seminary is essential in advancing the Gospel message and the vitality of the Church. We are blessed to have in our Archdiocese a Seminary which is well respected both nationally and internationally for its tradition of excellence in priestly formation. When our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI greeted me shortly after his election, he specifically said, “You have a good seminary.” He in fact had visited St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in 1990 as a Cardinal and experienced first hand our vibrant seminary community.

Largely due to your faithful support we have succeeded in maintaining the high-quality priestly formation in our Seminary that is recognized far and wide. I am so grateful for your past prayerful assistance and your ongoing generosity. I invite you once again to share the blessings that God has shared with you by a renewed commitment to our Seminary. Please make a meaningful financial gift to the **Seminary Appeal**, whatever your means permit, because there are few needs more important than supporting the formation of holy priests.

Thank you for your generous sacrifices, which are often made in secret and certainly all the more significant in the current economy. Thank you for your fidelity to Jesus Christ and His Church. Thank you for supporting our seminarians.

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

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 30 and 31, 2010.)