



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

March 20, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, our Holy Father writes, “The Christian’s program - the program of the Good Samaritan, the program of Jesus - is ‘a heart which sees’. This heart sees where love is needed and acts accordingly.” The challenges and potential facing Africa serve as an opportunity for us to join in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Africa. Our response enables us to express a love that creates no borders and sets no limits to what might be accomplished together in Christ.

The **Pastoral Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** supports the pastoral outreach, Catholic schools, programs of evangelization, education of seminarians and the continuing education of clergy. Your support will directly aid the Church in pastoral activities, catechetical programs, liturgical aids and more.

The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa focuses on building the pastoral capacity of the Church in Africa and on strengthening the bonds of faith that ties the Church in the United States to the Church in Africa. It will not duplicate the humanitarian or development assistance provided by Catholic Relief Services.

I am asking that a voluntary collection be taken up in the parishes and institutions of the Archdiocese on the weekend of **March 21 and 22, 2009**. On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Africa, I am grateful for your continuing generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

Cardinal Justin Rigali  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(This voluntary collection is to be taken on **March 21 and 22, 2009**. Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of **March 14 and 15, 2009**. Collection remittal is to be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)