



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

March 29, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Church in Africa is the fastest growing area of the Universal Church. It is also the neediest in our family of faith. The Church in Africa is spiritually rich, but desperately poor. Over 70% of our African brothers and sisters live on less than \$2 per day. This poverty cripples the ability of the local Church to raise sufficient funds for pastoral needs from the faithful.

The **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** supports the pastoral outreach, catechetical programs, Catholic schools, programs of evangelization, education of seminarians and the continuing education of clergy. In Sudan, the Church is re-building after a devastating north-south civil war and promoting peace in Darfur. Your support will aid the Church in pastoral activities, media communications as well as trauma healing and training for Church personnel.

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 **April 5 and 6, 2008**. On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Africa, I am grateful for your generous support.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Justin Card. Rigali

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(This voluntary collection is to be taken on **April 5 and 6, 2008**. Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of **March 29 and 30th**. Collection remittance is to be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)