



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

October 1, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At Baptism, each of us becomes a *missionary* who is called by our Lord to be a part of the Church's mission of evangelization by sharing our faith with those around us.

On October 18th, we will celebrate ***World Mission Sunday***; and we will reflect on Pope Benedict's "Year of the Priest" message. All priests, and particularly Missionary priests, can help us learn to be examples of living our faith with zeal and of becoming incisive witnesses of the Gospel in today's world. We celebrate all priests and missionaries who quietly present Christ's words and actions each day and reach out to those who await the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Before returning to His Father, Jesus promised His followers that He would send the Holy Spirit. He charged them with the task of being His "witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). That *mission* is now addressed to each one of us. We are called to support by prayer and sacrifice the work of missionaries who bring the Good News of Jesus to such faraway places as Asia and Africa, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America.

Please pray daily for our missionaries and for the people they serve. On this ***World Mission Sunday***, please show your support by being as generous as your means will allow. May all of us here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia be faithful to our call to be eager and effective witnesses to Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ ***Justin Card. Rigali***

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of October 10 and 11; the collection is to be taken the following weekend of October 17 and 18. Collection remittance should be made payable to: ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: *Pontifical Mission Society for the Propagation of the Faith*, 222 North 17 Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.)