

55.

**Cardinal Rigali Message  
The Sacrament of Penance**

*Announcer: And now a message from Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia.*

Dear Friends,

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, knew that the life that He gives us in the sacraments of Christian initiation can be weakened or lost through sin. It is for this reason that Christ instituted the Sacraments of Healing -- Penance and the Anointing of the Sick.

*The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that Christ gave us the Sacrament of Penance – also known as Confession -- so that His Church could continue His work of healing and salvation. The risen Lord instituted the sacrament on the evening of Easter when He revealed himself to His apostles and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’” (John 20: 22-23).

I urge you to experience reconciliation with God and a renewal of spiritual strength through the Sacrament of Penance.

May God bless you.

*(Source: The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Nos. 296-298.)*

**155 words**