



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

Easter 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of the Risen Lord Jesus be with you!

The Church proclaims with renewed devotion and joy the victory of her Lord and Savior over sin and death. The words of the angel to Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb, announced to us once again at the Vigil of Easter, stir within the heart of the Church sentiments of profound hope: “He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Then go quickly and tell his disciples” (Mt 28: 6-7).

How important these words are for us as the Church of Philadelphia as we end the celebration of our founding as a diocese 200 years ago. The same passage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew tells us that in response to this word of God made known to Mary Magdalene and the other women by the angel, “.....they went quickly away from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples” (Mt 28:8).

I pray that our devout keeping of the season of Lent and our celebration of our Bicentennial Year have prepared us well to renew this Easter with firm conviction our faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our willingness to make Him known to others.

A Blessed Easter to you all!

Sincerely in Christ,

**+Justin Card. Rigali**

Cardinal Justin Rigali  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

[Please communicate the contents of this letter to the faithful during the weekend of March 22-23, 2008]