



**Cardinal Justin Rigali
by the Grace of God
and
Favor of the Apostolic See
Archbishop of Philadelphia**

**Praised be Jesus Christ!
Now and Forever!**

Today, united with Christians throughout the world,
we rejoice in the good news of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Redeemer!

It is with particular joy that I announce a year of Jubilee for the Church of Philadelphia as we begin our celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Philadelphia! Recognizing the faithfulness of the immigrants who came here, Pope Pius VII on April 8, 1808 established Philadelphia as a Diocese.

It is in a spirit of deep gratitude that the Church of Philadelphia begins her Bicentennial Celebration.

***The Church of Philadelphia
Serving the People of God in the Beginning, Now and Always!***

In this year of Jubilee, I ask all the faithful to render fitting praise and thanks to Almighty God for the blessings that have been ours for these past 200 years of living and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I urge you to participate in the many and varied celebrations of this bicentennial year. I beg that you pray in particular for an increase of priestly vocations for the benefit of the Archdiocese, so that the presence of Jesus in the Sacrament may be ours now and always! Through the intercession of Saints John Neumann and Katharine Drexel, may we grow together - clergy, religious and laity - and become more faithful and willing in our service of God and neighbor.

In proclaiming this year of Jubilee, I ask the protection of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, upon our local Church and all her faithful people.

Given at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul,
of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the eighth day of April,
the Solemnity of the Resurrection,
in the Year of Our Lord 2007,
our Bicentennial Year.

+ *Justin Cardinal Rigali*
Archbishop of Philadelphia

