



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

June 30, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *Deus caritas est*, our Holy Father wrote that "within the community of believers there can never be room for a poverty that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life."

The lives and futures of 37 million Americans who are living in poverty are at stake. For nearly forty years, the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** has stood with poor and low-income peoples, helping to create permanent solutions to poverty. One by one people are joining local community groups to break the cycle of poverty – and Catholics across our country are part of that change.

In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the annual collection to support this domestic anti-poverty program of the Church will take place on the weekend of July 11-12, 2009. Through the collection, contributions of the faithful become tools of self-reliance, self-sufficiency and self-determination as anti-poverty projects are implemented across the country and in the communities and neighborhoods of our own Archdiocese. The annual collection also raises consciousness about poverty and the Church's social mission.

The *Catholic Campaign for Human Development* is committed to helping people find permanent solutions to the problem of domestic poverty. On behalf of literally thousands of citizens and neighbors whose lives will be offered hope through this program, I thank you for your response to this appeal.

May God bless you for your generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Justin Card. Rigali*

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia

(For additional information on poverty in the United States, or the programs of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, you may wish to consult the following websites: www.usccb.org/cchd and www.povertyusa.org)

(Please communicate the contents of this letter to your parishioners in the most appropriate manner on the weekend of July 4 & 5; the collection is taken up the following weekend of July 11 and 12. Collection remittal should be made payable to ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA and sent to: Office for Accounting Services, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103)

