

Rejoice in the Lord

By Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rejoice in the Lord is a new instrument of communication for our Archdiocese. The purpose of this newsletter is to strengthen relationships with you and all the people of the Archdiocese. We hope that **Rejoice in the Lord** will serve as an important means of keeping you informed about important matters of concern to this Archdiocese and, when appropriate, to the Church in the U.S. and throughout the world.



As you are aware, during the past 18 months especially, our Church has been confronted with a series of complex, controversial issues that have caused pain and confusion to many throughout the Archdiocese of Newark and beyond. Our efforts to communicate our actions, and the rationale behind our decisions, have not always been as effective as we hoped. Hence, we have developed this new way of communicating with you.

At various times, **Rejoice in the Lord** will offer reflections on one or more of the following:

- Scripture and Spirituality
- Church Teaching and Practice
- Pastoral Concerns
- Social Issues

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Phil 4:4)

Rejoice in the Lord will be sent via email to clergy, religious and lay people in all regions of the Archdiocese. It also will be available to everyone on the Archdiocesan website at www.rcan.org.

Effective communication is always a two-way street. Your feedback—questions, comments, criticisms—are welcome and encouraged. It will be especially helpful to know what issues or concerns you would like to see addressed in **Rejoice in the Lord**. Send comments to RejoiceintheLord@rcan.org.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has reminded us that *listening* is an indispensable component of good communication—whether in our prayer, our preaching or our dialogue with others (especially those who don't understand or agree with our decisions). Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will grant us all the serenity, courage and wisdom to communicate effectively with one another for the sake of our work as missionary disciples in the Archdiocese of Newark.

Gratefully in our Redeemer,



Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Update – Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead

During the coming weeks, I will be talking and writing about **Forward in Faith Together: Our Road Ahead**, the broad pastoral program of the Archdiocese of Newark that reports on our response to recent scandals in ways that bring healing to all while moving us forward in faith together. More information about this initiative will be available on our website at rcan.org in the coming weeks.



As Archbishop of Newark, I am called to protect and care for the entire Catholic community in northern New Jersey and beyond, but especially those who are most vulnerable. To be successful, I need your prayers and your help. As I pray for you, I hope, you, too, will please pray for me. †

A Message from Pope Francis: Words of Challenge and Hope



Are we able to communicate the face of a Church that is “home” to all? We sometimes speak of a Church that has its doors closed, but here we are contemplating much more than a Church with open doors, much more! We need to bring Christ to others, through these joys and hopes, like Mary, who brought Christ to the hearts of men and women; we need to pass through the clouds of indifference without losing our way; we need to descend into the darkest night without being overcome and disorientated; we need to listen to

the dreams, without being seduced; we need to share their disappointments, without becoming despondent; to sympathize with those whose lives are falling apart, without losing our own strength and identity. This is the path. This is the challenge. (cf. Pope Francis, Address to the Bishops of Brazil, 27 July 2013, n. 4). 🕊

My Prayer for You

May the Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts, transforming our lives, rebuilding this Local Church, and renewing the face of the earth. Come, Spirit of Comfort and Hope. Make us one with you and with the Father and Son we are called to know, love and serve on behalf of all the people of the Archdiocese of Newark and beyond. Amen. †

+ *Joseph W. Tobin, Chm*

