

MEDIA ALERT

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CARDINAL JUSTIN RIGALI TO LEAD A CONVERSATION, “HAVE FAITH IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS,” ON MARCH 30

Cardinal’s appearance will highlight the importance of Catholic education

- WHEN:** Friday, March 30, 2007 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Saint Joseph’s University Teletorium in Mandeville Hall, City Avenue, Philadelphia
- WHAT:** “Have Faith in Catholic Schools,” a two-part symposium co-sponsored by the Gesu Institute, the Robert A. Fox Leadership Program of the University of Pennsylvania and the Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society at the University of Pennsylvania
- WHO:**
- ◆ **Cardinal Rigali**, who has been the spiritual leader of nearly 1.5 million Catholics in the Philadelphia region since 2003
 - ◆ **Dr. John J. DiIulio**, a Fox Leadership professor at the University of Pennsylvania and first director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
- Catholic school representatives:
- ◆ **Sister Jeanne McGowan, SSJ**, of LaSalle Academy
 - ◆ **Sister Rosemary Herron, RSM**, of Mercy Vocational High School
 - ◆ **Christine Beck** of Gesu School
 - ◆ **Sister Constance Marie, IHM**, of St. Francis de Sales
- SCHEDULE:** 10:00 – Conversation with Cardinal Justin Rigali hosted by Dr. DiIulio
11:15 – Panel discussion with Catholic school representatives, who will talk about their respective school approaches and field questions

About the co-sponsors:

As a vital resource center for educators, administrators, policy-makers and researchers interested in achieving justice in urban education, the Gesu Institute was founded in 2005 by leaders of Gesu School (www.gesuschool.org), a North Philadelphia independent Catholic K-8 school in the Jesuit and IHM traditions that has been heralded as a national model. The Institute’s mission is to save, support and strengthen urban faith-based elementary schools, middle schools and high schools that serve low-income children, youth and families without regard to their beneficiaries’ religion.

The Institute recently developed a partnership arrangement with the Fox Leadership Program, which enriches learning at Penn through leadership courses, events and experiences including civic entrepreneurship, and the Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, which supports empirical “faith-factor” research on religion with an emphasis on urban communities and contemporary social problems.