



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

Office of the Bishop

September 15, 2010

Feast of Our Mother of Sorrows

Dear Pastors and Parish Life Directors:

Our Diocese of Lexington strives to remove any barriers that might prevent any person, regardless of a disability or special need, to freely come into the presence of Jesus, participate fully in our liturgies and serve the Lord by using their gifts to the best of their ability. In celebration of the gifts which persons with disabilities bring to all of our parishes, I gladly bring to your attention the *Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors* initiative sponsored by the Pathways Awareness Foundation and I designate the second weekend in October 2010 for the celebration of our Inclusion Awareness Day.

You have already received a message from Joe & Mary Petry, coordinators of our Ministry for Persons with Disabilities. Let me join them in expressing our hope that your parish will join in this effort to make all of our parishioners aware of the many gifts brought to our communities by the members of our parishes who have some disability or special need. Although there is no diocesan wide Mass this year, I truly hope that each of our parishes will be able to include this awareness in your Sunday Masses.

When you visit the Pathways Awareness Foundation website http://www.inclusioninworship.org/open_awareness_day_catholic.php please note that the foundation offers grants for inclusion efforts in parishes. I would hope that your preparation for Inclusion Awareness Day might make you and parishioners aware of any obstacles that may be physically present in your buildings that might be addressed and that might qualify for a grant request with the Pathways Awareness Foundation.

With my prayers and gratitude for the work of Joe & Mary Petry in our diocese and for your support of these important inclusive efforts in which we imitate the love of our Lord whose inclusive love is so evident in the Gospels. With my prayers and gratitude, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of Lexington

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