



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

June 2010

Dear Pastors and Administrators:

The Church of Long Island strives to break down barriers so that all persons, regardless of disability or special needs, are free to come into the presence of Jesus, participate fully in Liturgy, and serve the Lord to the best of their ability. In celebration of the gifts which persons with disabilities bring to all of our parishes, I gladly join with the *Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors* initiative sponsored by Pathways Awareness Foundation and designate the second weekend of October, 2010, for the celebration of **Inclusion Awareness Day**.

The Pathways Awareness Foundation offers grants for inclusion efforts. St. Catherine of Sienna Parish in Franklin Square received a grant last year for an automatic door. The Office of Faith Formation received a grant to distribute inclusion materials. Information about applying for the 2010 grants as well as material to help you fully celebrate **Inclusion Awareness Day** may be found at www.inclusioninworship.org.

I am very grateful to you for your continued efforts to include parishioners with disabilities and special needs. By including all persons who seek the presence of Jesus, we continue to model the small group of believers who brought their friend who was paralyzed to the feet of Jesus over two thousand years ago. In imitation of them, we imitate the Master Whose inclusive love is the driving force for our own commitment to inclusion.

With my prayers and my gratitude for your support of these efforts, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Bishop of Rockville Centre