

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



CELEBRATING
AND SHARING
OUR FAITH

Summer, 2007

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In our common mission to change lives by reaching people with the love of God and through engaging each other in working for social justice, peace and abundant life, the awareness and inclusion of persons with disabilities is an important aspect of our life and work. October marks Disability Awareness month and Mental Health awareness month. It also contains the feast of Samuel Isaac Schereshevsky (October 14). Schereshevsky is noted for translating over 2000 pages of the Bible into Chinese dialects despite massive paralysis.

Our own diocesan Task Force on Ministry with People with Disabilities, in conjunction with an ecumenical group of committed lay and ordained people, has provided for you materials to use to commemorate Disability Awareness month. As in the past, parishes have my permission to transfer the feast of Schereshevsky in order to highlight the ways people with disabilities contribute vitally to the life of the church.

I encourage your review and use of these materials and enthusiastically support the work of the Task Force. We all benefit when we reach out to one another. The work of the Task Force and your work in highlighting Disability Awareness month will bring the gospel to people previously excluded.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "William D. Persell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William D. Persell
Bishop of Chicago