

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



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September 16, 2011

Dear Father,

Each year, the Pathways Awareness Foundation asks parishes to participate in *Inclusion Awareness Sunday*, to be held this year on October 9, 2011. I write today to assure you of my support for this important effort and to encourage your parish's participation.

It is a happy coincidence that Pathways Awareness's "Open Hearts, Open Minds" initiative takes place during Respect Life Month in October, since our efforts to help people of all abilities to feel welcome in our parishes and included in worship stems from our belief in the dignity and value of every human life. I am grateful for the work of the Pathways Awareness Foundation in raising the level of sensitivity of all of us to those in our parish communities who have physical or cognitive disabilities.

Information on how to fully celebrate *Inclusion Awareness Sunday* can be found at www.inclusioninworship.org. In addition, I will be making a letter available for publication in your bulletins that weekend that directly addresses this matter.

Thank you for all you do for the people whom God has called you to serve. You are in my prayers; please keep me in yours.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago