

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

April, 2004

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This fall, parishes in our archdiocese will again observe **Inclusion Awareness Day**. We are called to create faith communities where people with diverse levels of ability can participate. On **Sunday, September 26, 2004** I invite you to reflect on your progress on this important issue.

Everyone has gifts and talents to contribute to our parishes if we take steps to remove barriers to participation. Many parishes already make it possible for everyone to participate in worship and ministries. Others are just beginning to reach out to affirm and include parishioners of all abilities. I ask that you continue in your efforts to make ours a more welcoming and participatory church for every one.

Please join me in celebrating this important event. If your parish is unable to participate on September 26th, please set aside another weekend to reflect on how welcoming you are. Open your hearts, your minds and your doors so that all may worship, not only on Inclusion Awareness Day, but every day of the year. God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis Cardinal George".

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