



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July, 2011

Dear Pastors and Administrators:

Across Long Island, our wonderful parishes continue to break down barriers so that all persons, regardless of disability, may find welcome. Nourished by the sacraments, they participate fully in worship and are enabled to serve the Lord to the best of their ability. In addition, they are a visible sign of the God Who loves us deeply in spite of our own limitations. In celebration of the gifts which persons with disabilities bring to us, I gladly join with the *Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors Foundation* and designate the second weekend of October 2011 for the celebration of **Inclusion Awareness Day**.

It is very fitting that this celebration follow Right to Life Sunday, a day on which we celebrate the sanctity of life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. How fitting that we honor those with disabilities who serve in our parishes. In so doing, we demonstrate that our defense of life is not only for the unborn, but for all those among us who live daily challenged by physical, emotional, and developmental disabilities. As we encourage them to belong more deeply, we cannot help but *Belong More Deeply* ourselves.

In order to break down the physical barriers which might still remain in some of our parishes, I encourage you to review the grant information from the Foundation, as well as the materials designed to help you celebrate **Inclusion Awareness Day**. This information is available at [www.inclusioninworship.org](http://www.inclusioninworship.org) as well as through a link at [www.drvc-faith.org](http://www.drvc-faith.org).

I am grateful for all that you have done so that we, as Church, might continue to model the Master of Inclusion Who never ceases to draw those with disabilities to Himself.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Bishop of Rockville Centre