

WE ALL BELONG!

"The Church continues to affirm the dignity of every human being, and to grow in knowledge and understanding of the gifts and needs of her members who live with disabilities. Likewise, the Church recognizes that every parish community includes members with disabilities, and earnestly desires their active participation."

(The Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities, USCCB, 2017)



OUR DOORS AND OUR HEARTS ARE ALWAYS OPEN

The Diocese of Davenport Disability Ministry seeks to build welcoming and inclusive parish communities where persons with disabilities and their families are embraced as essential members of the Body of Christ. Guided by Catholic teaching on the dignity of every human person, we support faith formation, sacramental participation, meaningful relationships, and opportunities for every individual to share their God-given gifts in the life and mission of the Church.

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Disability Inclusion Ministry & Advocacy



**DIOCESE of
DAVENPORT**

"WE ARE A SINGLE FLOCK UNDER THE CARE OF A SINGLE SHEPHERD. THERE CAN BE NO SEPARATE CHURCH FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES."

(U.S. Catholic Bishops - Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities, 1998)



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

- Promoting parish educational, spiritual, liturgical, and social services that ensure the inclusion of all.
- Providing awareness, assistance, and support to parish advocates and staff to identify and meet the unique needs of individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities.
- Advocating for the education and sacramental needs of persons with disabilities.
- Offering a supportive presence for families and caregivers.



IS YOUR PARISH WELCOMING TO ALL?

- Enlist a parish advocate for inclusion.
- Incorporate inclusive offerings into your events promotions or bulletins (accessibility features, signing/ASL Masses, large-print, hearing devices, etc.)
- Create a welcoming parish with an accessible livestream Mass, use platforms like YouTube Live for built-in automatic captions.
- Work to eliminate barriers to attending, participating in, serving at, and otherwise being part of Masses, events, and all parish activities.
- Designate greeters for your ramp entrances to assist persons with disabilities.
- Educate parishioners on disability issues with inserts/segments in your parish bulletin.
- Recruit volunteers to assist persons with special needs in religious education programs.
- Pray for persons with disabilities in your General Intercessions at Mass.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa:

Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education
<https://firefoundationneioa.org/>

National Catholic Partnership on Disability:

<https://ncpd.org/>

Adapted Faith Formation (NCPD):

<https://ncpd.org/adapted-faith-formation>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

<https://www.usccb.org>

Pastoral Statement on Persons with Disabilities:

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/pastoral-statement-u-s-catholic-bishops-persons-disabilities-0>

Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/policies/guidelines-sacraments-persons-with-disabilities>

Loyola Press- Adaptive Learning:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/special-needs/>

