

Catechetical Resources for Children and Youth with Disability

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (USCCB)

(800) 235-8722 or www.usccb.org

- *Pastoral Statement of United States Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities (1978/1989)*: A landmark document that set forth the vision for ministry with persons with disabilities in our country.
- *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities (1995)*.
- *Welcome and Justice for People with Disabilities (1998)*.
- *Welcome and Justice for People with Disabilities: A Parish Resource Guide (2003)*. This excellent document helps a parish evaluate how welcoming and inclusive it is for persons with disabilities. Includes ideas for liturgists, homilists, religious education/youth ministry programs, Catholic schools and more.

Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spiritual Growth of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders by Barbara Newman, Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2006. An interfaith primer offering practical suggestions for welcoming and including individuals with ASD into the full life of parish communities. Available from Friendship Ministries, 888-866-8966, www.Friendship.org.

Awakening Spiritual Dimensions: Prayer Services with Persons with Severe Disabilities by Father Bill Gillum, OFM Cap., M. Ed., Author House. Offering a series of prayer services which use a sensory-based model allowing symbols, sight, sounds, aroma, touch, and people to bring about a sense of the sacred to all who have gathered for prayer. Order from Author House at 888-519-5121 or www.authorhouse.com.

Catechists for All Children by Dr. Joseph White and Ana Arista White, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 2002. Offers insights and methods for accommodating unique emotional and behavioral needs in the classroom. Available from Our Sunday Visitor, 800-348-2440, www.osv.com.

The Child with Autism Learns the Faith by Kathy Labosh, Labosh Publishing, 2007, www.laboshpublishing.com. Offers ready-to-go lesson plans for teaching the faith to children with Autism. Includes Bible lessons from the Garden of Eden to the Parting of the Red Sea.

God's Love Embraces Autism: A Religious Formation Booklet for Children with Autism, developed by the Diocese of Pittsburgh Dept. for Persons with Disabilities. A black-and-white picture book with photos of areas within a Catholic Church, and a brief narrative description. For more information, contact the office at 412-456-3119.

Kennedy Curriculum (the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities). Available in English or Spanish from Silver Burdett Ginn Religion (877) 275-4725 or www.RCLBenziger.com. The curriculum is listed in their catalog, but is not currently on their website.

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities provides excellent information on various types of disabilities including fact sheets and teaching ideas. www.nichcy.org

Opening Doors to People with Disabilities, Volume I: Pastoral Manual (1995), Volume II: Resource File (1997). Volume II, Chapter 3, Section A includes many practical articles and forms published by the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, Washington D.C. (202) 529-2933; (202) 529-2934 (tty) or www.ncpd.org

Sacraments: Gifts for All Available for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. A very solid resource developed by the Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators, Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, University of Dayton, Ohio. (888) 532-3389 or www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice

Welcome One, Welcome All—Resource Binder Practical and readily applicable ideas and strategies compiled from dioceses throughout the United States on how to make your religious education/youth ministry programs more welcoming and inclusive. Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators, Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, University of Dayton, Ohio. (888) 532-3389 or www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice