

Inclusion Sunday

[Insert Church Name & Address]

**Invites Persons with Disabilities,
Family and Friends
to join the
Community of
[Insert Parish Name]**

All Are Welcome!

Sunday, June 15, 2008

[Insert times of Mass or Masses]

**Celebrant:
[Insert name of Celebrant]**



In collaboration with the Diocese of Richmond's
Office of Worship and Office for Persons with Disabilities

Inclusion Sunday is June 15, 2008, the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Roman Catholic Readings for June 15, 2008.
Reading I - Exodus 19:2 – 6a
Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5 (3c)
Reading II - Romans 5; 6-11
Gospel Reading Matthew 9:36 – 10:8
Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and sent them out.

June 15th is also Father's Day which we celebrate remembering that God is the Father of us all.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Catholic bishops' 1978 *Pastoral Statement on Persons with Disabilities* (www.ncpd.org/pastoral_statement_1978.htm). It called for a broader integration of persons with disabilities into the full life of the church through increased evangelization, catechesis and by participation in the Church's sacramental life. The bishops reaffirmed this call to active and integrated participation in 1995 with the passage of the Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities (www.ncpd.org/Sacramental%20Guidelines.htm) and in 1998 with the Statement, *Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities*. (www.usccb.org/doctrine/disabilities.htm)

These documents give foundation to our efforts to assist parishes in their efforts to be inclusive of persons with disabilities and their families in providing evangelization, catechetical formation and sacramental access. In addition, Pope Benedict XVI, in his latest encyclical *Spe Salvi*, reminds us that our lives are linked together . . . “no one lives alone, no one sins alone, no one is saved alone!” (www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20071130_spe-salvi_en.html)

To further encourage the inclusion of persons with disabilities and to recognize their gifts and talents into the full life of their churches, a **Diocesan wide Inclusion Sunday, All Are Welcome, is planned for June 15, 2008**. Inclusion Sunday is a ‘stepping stone’ or a first step to reaching out to parishioners with disabilities.

What can we, the Community of [insert name of Parish] do to include individuals with disabilities?

Create a welcoming community for persons with disabilities.

Help on Inclusion Sunday. Contact the Disability Parish Advocate in our church [**insert name(s) of Disability Advocate(s), contact information**].

Invite individuals with disabilities and their families to attend Inclusion Sunday.

Invite individuals from nursing homes and group homes to attend Inclusion Sunday.

Encourage individuals with disabilities and their families to use their gifts and talents to participate in Inclusion Sunday and then to participate throughout the year.

“On June 15, 2008, we join congregations throughout the Richmond Diocese in celebrating Inclusion Sunday. We actively and intentionally include people of all abilities in our parish worship and ministries because we are all members of the Body of Christ. When we open our hearts and our community to the gifts each person brings we are all strengthened.”

- Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo -