

SENSORY FRIENDLY MASS

All are welcome. All belong.



Awareness & Advertising

Presented by: Noelle Collis-DeVito



Lord, let thy peace fill me up until I overflow;
that where people cannot speak, I may be their advocate;
that where anyone is rejected, I may extend my arms in welcome;
that where parents are heavy burdened, I may offer a word of comfort;
that where our children struggle, I may lift them up and cheer;
that where some see disability, I may reveal to them extraordinary gifts; that where others judge,
I may share with them my deep gladness; and that where any are overlooked,
I may help the lights of all to shine.

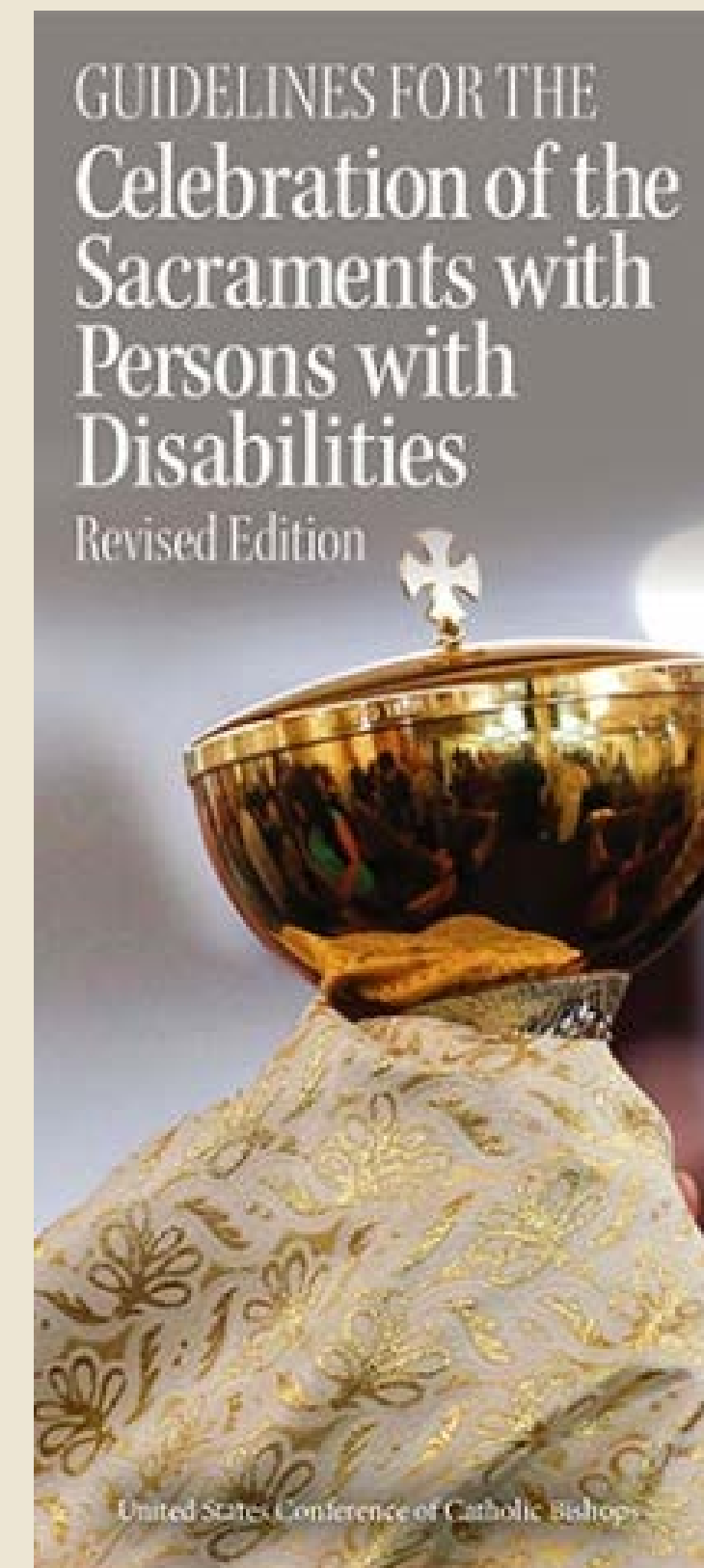
Oh giver of these gifts,
grant that I may not so much seek to be reassured as to reassure;
to be praised as to praise;
to be accepted as to accept;
for it is in all our uncertainty that we are inspired to hope;
it is in great challenges that we discover our greatest joys,
and it is in our community of wanderers that we find the way home.

Amen.



Importance of Awareness

7. The creation of a fully accessible parish reaches beyond mere physical accommodation to encompass the attitudes of all parishioners toward persons with disabilities. All members of the faith community have a role to play in the invitation, welcome, and inclusion of people with disabilities. Pastoral ministers are encouraged to foster attitudes and a parish culture, and to develop informational materials, aimed at forming a community of believers known for its joyful inclusion of all of God's people around the table of the Lord.





Parish-Wide Awareness

Awareness Should Be Step 1

Before you begin hosting Sensory-Friendly Liturgies, it is essential that you have the parish community on board.

Spend at least a month preparing the hearts of your parishioners through various mediums.





Parish-Wide Awareness

How to Raise Awareness:

- Bulletin Inserts
- Printable Materials
- Bulletin/Pulpit Announcements
- Discuss in the Homily
- Allow People to Share Stories
- Host an Awareness Session/Event





Parish-Wide Awareness

Bulletin Inserts:

- Include Weekly
- Awareness Week 1- Autism
- Awareness Week 2- IDD
- Awareness Week 3- Mental Health
- Take time to address these inserts





Parish-Wide Awareness

Printable Materials:

- Brochure
- Pew Cards
- NCPD Materials
- Informational Materials from Local Organizations





Parish-Wide Awareness

Bulletin/Pulpit Announcements:

- Sample for Use
- Be sure to call attention to the information in the bulletin.
- Include this information on the Website, Social Media & App as well.
- Before a Sensory-Friendly Mass





Parish-Wide Awareness

Address During the Homily:

- Speak with Pastor about preaching on a culture of belonging and specifically on the upcoming Sensory-Friendly Mass.
- This could be offered as a Homily Series that could build on itself each week.





Parish-Wide Awareness

Sharing Stories:

- Invite people in your parish to share their stories and experiences with stigma and welcome.
- Offer this after Mass during Donut Sunday, during Religious Education classes (invite parents to attend), or even as a final announcement during Mass.





Parish-Wide Awareness

Host an Awareness Session/Event:

- Bring in someone from a local organization as an educational resource for parishioners.
- Plan an event that encourages parishioners to think more deeply about ability and our unity through the Body of Christ. (Ex. All Are Welcome, All Belong)





Outreach- Creating a Buzz

Parish Website & Social Media:

- Post regularly in a high traffic area about your Sensory-Friendly Mass, who it benefits, and why you are hosting.
- Share with local organizations, parishes, and schools.
- Post in relevant groups (ex. Catholic Moms, "Special Needs" Parent Groups)
- Consider purchasing a "Push" or Ad
- Sample Social Media Square



Outreach- Creating a Buzz

Local Press:

- Reach out to the local press with a "Press Release."
- Invite them to attend the Mass.
- Include a short article in the Community Section of your local paper.





Outreach- Creating a Buzz

Organizational Outreach:

- Email, call, or send a post card to your local organizations that support persons with disabilities.
- Ask for help in spreading the word to people are Catholic.





Outreach- Creating a Buzz

Remember!
If you build it...
they WILL come!





Resource Page

Resource List



Questions & Answers

Q & A