

# **Inclusive Registration Forms**

## **from the Diocese of Orange**

### **To identify students with special needs**

The following information will assist us in preparing volunteer catechists to work with each student.

Does your child receive special education services? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

If "Yes," what services is he or she receiving? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please furnish us with the portion of the current Individualized Education Program (IEP) that contains recommendations for the instructor. This information will be kept in a confidential student file.

Have a place for the names of siblings on the registration form. If a sibling is not enrolled, discretely inquire. The family may assume that religious education is not available for a child with special needs.

### **Permission to photograph**

Because of the issue of confidentiality, you *must* have permission to photograph students with disabilities, even for such things as a group photograph of students involved in activities that might appear on a bulletin board, parish publication, diocesan newsletter, or diocesan newspaper. Including the following statement on every student's registration form will take care of this need.

#### Consent to Photograph

We hereby give our consent to the Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_ to photograph this student and to use such pictures and/or stories in connection with parish and diocesan ministries without consideration of compensation of any kind, and we do hereby release said diocese from any claims whatsoever which may arise in said regards. Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

### **Final statement on the registration form prior to signatures**

It is understood that each student in the parish religious education program may have special needs and may require certain individual assistance with those needs. The parish school of religious education will endeavor to assist you in providing religious education for your child within the ordinary

structures of parish programs. The undersigned parent/guardian acknowledges that current programs, staffed by volunteers, may be discontinued or a particular student may be required to complete an alternative course of religious studies at the sole discretion of the religious education director.

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Note to directors and coordinators: Every effort should be made to serve students with disabilities following the spirit of the pastoral guidelines offered in the *Code of Canon Law* as well as statements by the United States bishops.

*Code of Canon Law*, canon 777.4

“In accord with the norms established by the diocesan bishop, the pastor is to make particular provision...that catechetical formation also be given to those handicapped in body or mind insofar as their condition permits.”

*NCCB Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities*

“In accord with canon 777, pastors are responsible to be as inclusive as possible in providing evangelization, catechetical formation, and sacramental preparation for parishioners with disabilities.” “Parish catechetical and sacramental preparation programs may need to be adapted for some parishioners with disabilities.”

*Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities*

“For most Catholics the community of believers is embodied in the local parish. The parish is the door to participation for individuals with disabilities, and it is the responsibility of the pastor and lay leaders to make sure that this door is always open...in order to be loyal to its calling, to be truly pastoral, the parish must make sure that it does not exclude any Catholic who wishes to take part in its activities.”

“Evangelization and catechesis for individuals with disabilities must be geared in content and method to their particular situation...great care should be taken to avoid further isolation of people through these programs which, as far as possible, should be integrated with the normal catechetical activities of the parish.”

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