

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)



Is your parish welcoming to all?

- Enlist a parish advocate for inclusion.
- Consider an accessibility audit of your parish buildings. Invite a parishioner with special mobility needs to accompany you.
- Incorporate inclusive offerings into your event promotions or bulletins (accessibility features, signing/ASL Masses, large-print, etc.)
- Create audio recordings of weekly homilies, bulletin announcements, and newsletters for persons with sight impairments.
- Designate greeters for your ramp entrance to assist persons with disabilities.
- Educate parishioners on disability issues with inserts/segments in your parish bulletin.
- Pray for persons with physical and intellectual disabilities or mental illness in your General Intercessions at Mass.
- Form a transportation committee for parishioners who are unable to come to Mass on their own.
- Provide awareness resources in your school and parish libraries.
- Encourage volunteers to visit a group home or nursing home in your area, and invite residents to be part of your parish family.
- Recruit volunteers to assist persons with special needs in religious education programs.
- Include disability ministries on your parish website, bulletin, parish app, directory, etc.

For more information:
<https://dbqarch.org/disability-inclusion>



*“Persons with disabilities are called to the **fullness of sacramental life**, even in the presence of severe disorders. The sacraments are gifts from God, and the liturgy, even before it is rationally understood, needs to be lived: **therefore no one can refuse the sacraments to persons with disabilities...** Persons with disabilities can become adept in the lofty dimension of the faith that includes sacramental life, prayer, and the proclamation of the Word. In fact, they are not only recipients of catechesis, but **participants in evangelization.**”*

(New Directory for Catechesis, 2020, para. 272)

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Disability Inclusion Ministry and Advocacy



“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!

"Words and gestures of outreach and welcoming must never be missing from any church community, so that everyone, particularly those whose journey in life is not easy, can encounter the risen Lord and find in that community a source of hope and courage."

(Pope Francis, Audience with Persons with Disabilities, October 21, 2017)

Archdiocesan Disability Inclusion Ministry includes:

- 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 educational and sacramental needs of persons with disabilities, and promoting self-advocacy.
- Offering a supportive presence for families and caregivers.
- Collaborating with Catholic Charities, the Knights of Columbus, and other charitable and supportive organizations.



"[Persons with disabilities] are not only recipients of catechesis, but participants in evangelization. It is desirable that they themselves should be catechists and, with their testimony, transmit the faith in a more effective way."

(Directory for Catechesis, 2020, para. 272)

Financial Assistance Grants



Archdiocesan Disability Inclusion Grant

This grant is offered to any *individual* with disabilities (and one family member or caregiver) who would like to attend an adaptive camp or retreat experience within the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Applicants must be registered parishioners, and must obtain a recommendation from their pastor.

For more information, contact your Parish Inclusion Advocate, or email Lynne Chapman at L.Chapman@dbqarch.org.



Archdiocesan Spiritual Enrichment Grant

This grant serves to support spiritual formation and enrichment opportunities for *parish* ministry events and services, multi-parish programming, or training/formation for parish leadership and volunteers in their role in the spiritual formation of others. Learn more about this Archdiocesan grant here: <https://dbqarch.org/strengthen-your-parish>.

"In Christ's name, the Church is committed to making herself more and more a 'welcoming home.' We know that the disabled person — a unique and unrepeatable person in his equal and inviolable dignity — needs not only care, but first of all love." (St. Pope John Paul II, Jubilee Year 2000)

Additional Online Resources:

Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Dubuque:
<http://www.catholiccharitiesdubuque.org/>

FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa
Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education
<https://firefoundationneiowa.org/>

National Catholic Partnership on Disability:
<https://ncpd.org/>

Adapted Faith Formation (NCPD):
<https://ncpd.org/adapted-faith-formation>

United States Council 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/>



The Archdiocese of Dubuque recognizes and appreciates the financial contributions of Knights of Columbus Councils across the Archdiocese. The Knights have generously supported the work of Disability Inclusion ministry through the years, and continue to provide funding for the resources we are able to offer persons with disabilities in our parish communities.

Our Mission:

To promote the Culture of Life that respects and celebrates the dignity, intrinsic worth, gifts and talents of every individual, imitating Jesus' ministry of inclusion.



"Following the principle of the incarnation of the Son of God, who makes himself present in every human situation, the Church recognizes in persons with disabilities the call to faith and to a life that is good and full of meaning... Communities are called not only to take care of the most fragile, but to recognize the presence of Jesus who in a special way manifests himself in them." (Directory for Catechesis, 2020, para. 269)



Disability Inclusion Ministry and Advocacy in the Archdiocese of Dubuque provides resources to parishes, schools, and individuals for the inclusion of people with physical and intellectual disabilities in faith formation, sacramental prep, and all opportunities within the parish community.

In collaboration with other archdiocesan offices, we continually seek ways to enhance outreach to persons with unique needs, and to broaden inclusion efforts within parishes.