

Saints Peter and Paul RC Church  
Ministry on Disabilities  
August 16, 2010

## Summary of Parish Accessibility review and Signs of an Open Door Parish

The following is a summary of the Signs of an Open Door Parish review done by Ann Marie MacIsaac and the Accessibility review done by Paul Klas and reviewed by Joe Butch and Dave Whalen. This report was presented to the Ministry for final review and comment. This is designed to provide feedback on areas that will allow our parish to be open to all who wish to attend. The Diocesan tools that will be provided to all churches were used. It should be noted that SSPP is setting the standard by both incorporating and responding to the areas of need and concern and should be commended for this.

**SIGNS of an OPEN DOOR PARISH:** This was conducted by Parish staff and is best followed up in discussion with Fr Jerry and other key players.

**ACCESSIBILITY review:**

- No padded seats or seat pads; this allows individuals who have a difficult time sitting for any length of time to be comfortable during mass
- Audio loop not indicated anywhere even though we have one
- Missalettes and hymnals not available in large print or Braille
- No sign language interpreters
- Ushers not trained to respond to these needs or are not aware they are available (i.e. audio loop)

**Parking:** no access aisles but space are wide and do accommodate a van ramp. No reserved space posted-this is necessary especially during the winter months. It is also ADA regulation to have them. Recommendation to post on fence and on lawn.

**Parish office;** threshold is too high at accessible entrance. Code is ½ inch and it exceeds that. There is no bathroom on the first floor. Door knobs to enter make it difficult for individuals who can not grip to open.

**Restrooms in church;** inaccessible-this would need to be completely renovated. Need to indicate alternate restroom while a permanent solution is developed.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Weekly *disability info* section in bulletin to indicate accessible pews, gluten-free host, audio loop and any other accommodations the church will or does already make. Announce at masses.
2. Get Braille and large print missalettes, hymnals
3. Train ushers in disability awareness (how to recognize needs, etiquette/interaction skills) and what the church offers. Provide additional training for parish.
4. Posted signs on lawn and fence indicating accessible parking.

5. Add accessible parking spots at front entrance to school. No spots exist in lot beyond those near the front of the church. This covers the school's need to have spots and for those that enter the church lot from Reist St and need to use accessible spots for mass.
6. Send out the Needs survey to all parishioners to help identify individuals with disabilities and their needs
7. Restrooms renovation indicated in long range plans as a priority.
8. Interpreter identified on as needed basis
9. Transportation network established for those who can't get to church. This would include group home contacts to see who needs both a ride and assistance to attend mass.
10. Training Religious Education dept in disability awareness. Establish dates.
11. Train confirmation students in disability awareness to include how to integrate through service work. Provide them with information on the many opportunities that exist to work within the disability community. Review Religious Education curriculum to see where disability awareness can be included through all grades.
12. Consult with the Ministry on Disabilities whenever renovations, new construct or events/activities are in the planning stages.

Respectfully submitted,

David Whalen  
Chair-Ministry on Disabilities