



Diocese of Buffalo

Department of Lifelong Faith Formation

A member of the Division for Evangelization and Catechesis

Adaptive Catechesis / Special Needs Resources

“There can be no separate Church for persons with disabilities... ‘Since provision of access to religious functions is a pastoral duty,’ parishes should make that much more effort to include those who may feel excluded... All persons with disabilities have a right to adequate catechesis and deserve the means to develop a relationship with God. Persons with disabilities should be integrated into ordinary catechetical programs as much as possible.” (*National Directory for Catechesis*, pg. 207)

Catechetical leaders have the duty to be welcoming and inclusive of all persons in the Church. Every person has the ability to live the life God has set before him, receive the Father’s abundant love, witness to the Gospel, and live as a member of the Church.

The following list of resources has been compiled to assist parish catechetical leaders in meeting the catechetical needs for persons with special needs. While this list is not exhaustive, it will be updated regularly as needed. It is meant to assist catechetical leaders in learning about current catechetical and pastoral guidelines for persons with disabilities, general overviews on different special needs and disabilities, and resources available to adapt catechesis for persons with special needs.

If you are in need of assistance or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 716-847-5501 or LLFF@buffalodiocese.org.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

- [Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities](#)
- [Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities: A Framework of Access and Inclusion](#)

Individualized Religious Education Plans:

- [Diocese of Orange IREP](#)
- [Diocese of Green Bay IREP \(blank form\)](#)
- [Diocese of Green Bay IREP \(sample form\)](#)

University of Dayton:

- [Resources for Inclusive Catechesis](#)

Loyola Press:

- [Sacramental Adaptive Kits](#)
- [Inclusive Faith Resources](#)
- [Finding God—Adaptive Program](#)



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St. Mary's Press:

- [A Place for All: Ministry for Youth with Special Needs](#)

Ligouri Publications:

- [Handbook for Adaptive Catechesis: Serving Those with Special Needs](#)

RCL Benzinger:

- [Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program](#)

Pathways:

- [Inclusion in Worship](#)

National Catholic Office for the Deaf:

- [Strengthened in Faith Confirmation DVD](#)
- [Liturgical Prayers and Signs DVD](#)
- [Sacrament of Reconciliation in Sign Language DVD](#)
- [Policies for Working with Sign Language Interpreters in Catholic Religious Settings](#)
- [Principles for Understanding Deaf Ministry and Guidelines for Hiring Pastoral Ministers for the Deaf Community](#)

Organizations:

- [National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities](#)
- [Xavier Society for the Blind](#)
- [National Catholic Office for the Deaf](#)
- [American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Autism Society of America](#)
- [Autism Speaks](#)