Include Us!
It’s Easier Than You Think!

May 17, 2023
Let us Pray
Spirit of God, present among us, you grace us with abilities that we freely share, in hopes of building up your Kingdom on earth. All ministry, the disability ministry, is your ministry. We thank you and praise you for every opportunity to serve your people, especially persons very beloved by you, persons sometimes overlooked or invisible in the world. We ask for your blessings and guidance on our humble efforts to accompany persons with disabilities, and their families, within the life of the Church.

Thank you for ministers who through their sincere love and acceptance of the entire Body of Christ are transforming the world we live in; one diocese, one parish, one family at a time.

May the blessing of God be upon us, giving us knowledge to guide us, courage to support us, and always love to unite us, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.
Gospel Values = Full Inclusion

- **Gen 1:27**
  Made in God's Image

- **CST**
  Dignity of the Person
Persons with Disabilities

Ch. 8, Section 6

Paragraphs 269-272
"Communities are called to not only take care of the most fragile but to recognize the presence of Jesus who in a special way manifests himself in them."

(p. 269)
Baptismal Rights
Who Do You Say That I Am?

SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN...

Yes. Welcome him.
Speaking of Disability: Pastoral Guidelines on Language
Directory for Catechesis

"Precisely because they are witnesses to the essential truths of human life, persons with disabilities must be welcomed as great gift."

(p. 270)
What's Your Disability IQ?

How many children have a diagnosis of autism?

A. 1 in 44
B. 1 in 68
C. 1 in 32
A. 1 in 44 children have a diagnosis of autism. (CDC Mar 2022)

“I can remember the frustration of not being able to talk. I knew what I wanted to say, but I could not get the words out, so I would just scream.”

“I’m a visual thinker, not a language-based thinker. My brain is like Google Images.”

- Temple Grandin
Hyperactivity

Impulsivity

Inattention

Physiological Factors

Weak “Executive Functioning”

Sleep Disturbance

Impaired Sense of Time

Delayed Social Maturity

Not Learning Easily From Rewards and Punishment

Coexisting Conditions

Learning Difficulties

Low Frustration Tolerance

Hidden below the surface
What is sensory processing?

Sensory processing is the process by which our brain takes in sensory input and interprets this information for use.
Disability IQ?

How many children live daily with sensory processing challenges?

A. 1 in 12
B. 1 in 9
C. 1 in 6
1 IN 6 CHILDREN
I have Sensory Processing Disorder

I'm overly sensitive to loud sounds.

I have trouble focusing/ concentrating.

I have poor fine motor skills, such as handwriting, and cutting.

I have poor gross motor skills such as running or riding a bike.

I chew on everything.

I hate having my hair brushed, washed or cut.

I hate being tickled or cuddled.

I am a picky eater; I resist new foods and textures.

I seem to be unaware of normal touch and pain. I often feel others too soft or too hard.
Need twice as much time to do half as much work.
Use words AND pictures.
Helpful Tips

- Blended learning: uses technology & hands on materials
- Offer shorter segments of instruction
- Have smaller groups of learners
- Use animations & transitions in PPT slides
- Incorporate music and movement
- Engage all 5 senses or as many as possible
- Project to large screen, if possible
- Object lessons: uses 3 dimensional items
- Maintain a routine: familiarity lessens anxiety
- Be clear and direct: use simple and fewer words
CULTURE OF BELONGING

When we open our hearts to one person with a disability, we open our hearts to the entire family.
"Catechists should also be close to the families of persons with disabilities, accompanying them and fostering their full incorporation into the community."

(p. 271)
Practice Christ like hospitality.
Any family with a member who has a disability can experience deep isolation within their parish community.
What's Your Disability IQ?

What percentage of youth in the United States between the ages of 6-17 experienced a mental health disorder in 2016?

A. 12%
B. 16.5%
C. 24%
B. 16.5% (7.7 million people) of youth in the United States between the ages of 6-17 experienced a mental health disorder in 2016.

(National Alliance on Mental Illness - NAMI)
A Pastoral Response to Mental Illness

Council on Mental Illness
National Catholic Partnership on Disability

St. Dymphna
Feast Day
May 15

FREE prayer cards
thanks to
The Katie Foundation,
visit ncpd.org

St. John of God
Feast Day
March 8

Purchase on Amazon
English/Spanish
Tips and Tools on Disability
SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023
12-6 PM ET
LIVE ONLINE

FREE CATECHIST TRAINING

Topic Covered:
Classroom Management
Music and Movement
Social Narratives

Multi-Sensory Lesson Planning
Social and Emotional Health
Sacramental Preparation
JULY 2023
ONLINE TRAINING

Preparing your parish to host Sensory Friendly Masses that embrace members of our Church with disabilities.

**Presenters:**
Noelle Collis-Devito

Noelle implemented Sensory Friendly Masses in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. She currently serves as a Campus Minister at the University of Dayton and is a member of NCPD’s Council on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities.

**Wednesday Sessions**
- **4:00-5:00 PM ET**
  - 7/12 - Planning the Liturgy: Important Considerations
  - 7/19 - Hospitality, Welcoming & Belonging
  - 7/26 - Preparing Your Parish: Awareness & Advertising

**Saturday Session**
- **12:00-4:00 PM ET**
  - The 5 steps of implementation will be reviewed and timelines considered. Time will be allotted to work together to set parish goals for hosting Sensory Friendly Masses.
“Persons with disabilities are called to the fullness of the sacramental life, even in the presence of serious disorders. The sacraments are gifts from God, and the liturgy, even before it is rationally understood, asks to be lived: therefore, no one can deny the sacraments to people with disabilities.”

(Par. 272)

Directory for Catechesis

March 2020
Each module provides written, audio, and video resources to explore the topic, as well as an opportunity for reflection.

Components of the course include ASL interpretations, captions and transcripts.

ncpd-us.teachable.com
Strategies to Improve Organization

- Create a checklist to ensure that all necessary supplies are available for daily or specific tasks.
- Provide monthly or weekly calendars to ensure that to-do lists remain visible.
- Color-code items that belong together.
- Place a reminder checklist in a personal space.
- Create an assignment folder, notebook, or binder that is checked by the educator or parent.
- Monitor for fatigue or hunger.
The most common desire named in the synodal consultations was to be a more welcoming Church where ALL members of the People of God can find accompaniment on the journey.
When Pope Francis announced that the Synod on Synodality was to be extended to 2024,

he explained that his decision was made “in order to have a more relaxed period of discernment.”

“The fruits of the synodal process underway are many, but so that they might come to full maturity, it is necessary not to be in a rush.”
thank you

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