

Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities

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Did you know?

- * 16% with hearing difficulties*
- * 16% with ambulation challenges*
- * 62% aged 65+*
- * 1:88 children diagnosed with autism*
- * 1:691 born with Down Syndrome*
- * Disability can happen to any one of us*

*“If you ‘build’ it, ALL
can come”*

Major barriers to faith inclusion

- * Awareness levels*
- * Belief that all are already welcome*
- * Not knowing what to do*
- * Status quo*
- * Fear/apprehension*
- * Presence without participation*

*“Building” ≠ “a
building”*

Words count:

- * *We v. they*
- * *People First language (except with asked to do otherwise)*
- * *What do you say to someone with a disability? "How about 'Hello...'"*
- * *Would you like some help?*
- * *Accessibility is much more than physical*

*Apart from, for, with,
...or by?*

Common faith community activities:

- * *Worship*
- * *Faith formation*
- * *Holidays*
- * *Parish events*
- * *Outreach/service*
- * *Fellowship/friendship*

In ALL that we do

What we do

- * *Host events*
- * *Slight considerate changes*
- * *Dear Donna letters*
- * *Special notices*
- * *Presence*
- * *Inclusive Religious Education*
- * *Planning for next capital improvements*
- * *Family support*
- * *Bible/resource study*

Rolling Deck Ministry at St. Pius X

Think about:

- * *Welcoming everyone?*
- * *Form a ministry or committee?*
- * *Self-assessment?*
- * *Right now?*
- * *Short-term, long-term planning?*
- * *Information dissemination?*
- * *The next generation?*
- * *Guest speakers?*

What can you do?

Selected resources

- * *Collaborative on Faith and Disability*
<http://faithanddisability.org/>
- * *Erik Carter's Including people with disabilities in faith communities: A guide for service providers, families, and congregations*
(Brookes)
- * *UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities*
www.uconnucedd.org
- * *Kim Newgass, Consultant 203/494.9176 (cell/text) or kimranell@sbcglobal.net*
- * *Google "Inclusion in Faith Communities"*
- * *What's already in your community*
- * *DVDs, e.g., "Praying with Lior"*

“GOD DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES...”

“SEPARATE IS NOT EQUAL”

***INCLUSION IN FAITH COMMUNITIES=
BEING, BELIEVING, BELONGING,
BECOMING...***