

Diocese of Albany Ministry for People with Disabilities

Catechetical Resources For People with Disabilities and Special Needs

Catechesis with Persons with Disabilities

Official Church Statements

General Directory for Catechesis, no. 189. Liberia Editrice Vaticana. Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1997.

National Directory for Catechesis, no. 49. Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005.

Resources - Books

Awakening Spiritual Dimensions: Prayer Services with Persons with Severe Disabilities by Father Bill Gillum, OFM Cap., M. Ed., Author House. Offering a series of prayer services which uses a sensory-based model allowing symbols, sight, sounds, aroma, touch, and people to bring about a sense of the sacred to all who have gathered for prayer. Order from Author House at 888-519-5121 or www.authorhouse.com.

Catechists for All Children by Dr. Joseph White and Ana Arista White, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 2002. Offers insights and methods for accommodating unique emotional and behavioral needs in the classroom. Available from Our Sunday Visitor, 800-348-2440, www.osv.com.

The Child with Autism Learns the Faith by Kathy Labosh, Labosh Publishing, 2007, Offers ready-to-go lesson plans for teaching the faith to children with Autism. Includes Bible lessons from the Garden of Eden to the Parting of the Red Sea.

Faith, Family and Children with Special Needs, David Rizzo, Loyola Press, 2012, www.loyolapress.com

Handbook for Adaptive Catechesis Serving Those with Special Needs, Michele E. Chronister, Liguori, Missouri, 2012, www.liguori.com

How to Welcome, Include, and Catechize Children with Autism and Other Special Needs, Lawrence R. Sutton, Ph. D., Loyola Press 2013. The information in this little book “helps parish leaders: provide one-on-one customized catechesis using existing resources, invite teens into meaningful service, revitalize, educate, and engage the entire parish”. www.loyolapress.com

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How Each Child Learns Using Multiple Intelligence in Faith Formation, Bernadette Stankard, Twenty Third Pub., 2007, This is while not specific to people with disabilities addresses the different ways we learn. It is applicable to everyone.

Out Different Gifts, Bernadette Stankard., Twenty Third Pub., 2013. The newest of Bernadette's Multiple Intelligence books, this one is specific to faith formation and the sacraments. Topics include prayer, sacraments, liturgical year and personal spirituality.

A Place for All Ministry for Youth with Special Needs, John Barone, St. Mary's Press, 2008, www.smp.org

Prayer and Multiple Intelligences Who I Am Is How I Pray, Bernadette Stankard., Twenty Third Pub., 2005. A book that can be used with everyone by focusing on how we relate to God.

Special Needs Support for Faith Formation, Laura Demkovitz, Michelle Herstek Woeklers, Louise Timko, Catechist Resources, 2012. Discusses the Individualized Learning Plan, different learning styles, sacraments, faith gestures. Forms are reproducible. www.catholiccompany.com

Spiritually Able A Parent's Guide to Teaching the Faith to Children with Special Needs, David Rizzo, Loyola Press 2015. www.loyolapress.com

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Resources – Faith Formation Tools

Adaptive Program Finding God, Loyola Press, -. Comprehensive faith formation program utilizing multisensory learning styles and strengths. Bible stories, prayers, more. Can be modified to the person's needs. <http://loyolapress.com/adaptive-finding-god.htm>

The Jesse Box Original Edition or Family Edition, Ignatius Press, Bible Stories - Diorama with wooden figures. Stories include Pentecost, the Nativity and Exodus. <http://www.ignatius.com/Products/278221/jesse-box-original-edition.aspx> .

My Sunday Missal App, Loyola Press. For use in preparation for or during mass. <http://www.loyolapress.com/my-picture-missal-app.htm>

Sacraments 123 App, Diocese of Bridgeport, Sacraments and Mass. Games to help learn. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sacraments-123/id598306998?mt=8>

Virtual Church Tour, St. Mary's Press, Uses QR Codes to access short videos on the Mass. www.smp.org

Pflaum Gospel Weeklies, Use based on learning ability, not chronological age. <http://www.pflaumweeklies.com>

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Websites

National Catholic Partnership for Disability, ncpd.org. “Rooted in Gospel values that affirm the dignity of every person, the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) works collaboratively to ensure meaningful participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of the life of the Church and society.” Many resources for catechesis and specific disabilities.

Historical Catechetical Resources

Seasons of Grace: Sacramental Preparation for Mentally Handicapped Teens and Adults, by Brigid O’Donnell. (Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor), 1991. [Out of print] This now classic resource is geared for those in the mild to moderate range of disability but can be adapted to meet a variety of needs.

The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Mental Disabilities. Diocese of Pittsburgh, 1996. Available in English or Spanish from www.RCLBenziger.com. Is in the process of being updated by the Diocese of Pittsburgh.