

Parish Accessibility “Welcome & Inclusion” Survey Toolkit

	Yes	No
1. Are you aware of parishioners with the following disabilities:		
a) Individual Developmental Disabilities	_____	_____
b) Deafness or hearing loss	_____	_____
c) Blindness or visual impairments	_____	_____
d) Physical disabilities	_____	_____
e) Emotional disturbance or mental illness	_____	_____
f) Families with children that have special needs	_____	_____
2. Has your parish taken any means to identify persons with disabilities?	_____	_____
3. Has anyone discussed with parishioners with disabilities how each of them could better share in the worship and other activities of the Parish?	_____	_____
4. Are your church and other buildings accessible to persons with disabilities?	_____	_____
• Parking space		
a) Are convenient parking spaces reserved and marked?	_____	_____
b) Are the lanes sufficiently wide for wheelchair use?	_____	_____
• Exterior of church & other parish facilities		
a) Is the sidewalk slope easy to negotiate?	_____	_____
b) Are the steps easy to negotiate?	_____	_____
c) Is there a handrail on the steps?	_____	_____
d) Is there a ramp, chairlift, elevator, as needed?	_____	_____
e) Can the door be opened by a person with limited strength and mobility?	_____	_____
• Interior of church & other parish facilities		
a) Is the sanctuary accessible to persons with mobility impairments?	_____	_____
b) Are there pew cuts for people in wheelchairs?	_____	_____

	Yes	No
c) Are Eucharistic Ministers trained to bring the Eucharist to those who have difficulty approaching the altar?	_____	_____
d) Are assistive listening devices available in church and confessional?	_____	_____
e) Is a place available for persons who are Deaf and others to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation face to face?	_____	_____
f) Is a place reserved that provides a vantage point for lip reading for persons with limited hearing?	_____	_____
g) Is the amplification system adequate to provide clear sound?	_____	_____
h) Is the microphone moveable so as not to impede lip reading and for use by wheelchair users?	_____	_____
i) Is sign and oral interpretation provided for persons who are deaf?	_____	_____
j) Are Braille and large print materials available?	_____	_____
k) Are restroom doors wide enough for a wheelchair?	_____	_____
l) Are there grab bars in the restroom stalls?	_____	_____
• Assistance		
a) Are people available to offer assistance to those entering church and meeting rooms?	_____	_____
b) Is transportation to church and other activities provided?	_____	_____
5. What is being done to integrate people with disabilities into parish life?		
• Liturgy		
a) Do parishioners with disabilities act as altar servers?	_____	_____
b) Do they serve as lectors/hospitality ministers?	_____	_____
c) Do they serve as Eucharistic ministers?	_____	_____
d) Do they serve as ushers?	_____	_____
e) Do they sing in the choir or play an instrument for liturgies?	_____	_____
f) Do they participate in the presentation of the gifts?	_____	_____

	Yes	No
• Education		
a) Are people with disabilities included in your parish school as students or teachers?	_____	_____
b) Are they included in your religious education programs as students or teachers?	_____	_____
c) Are parishioners with disabilities considered when adult education programs, retreats, etc., are planned for the parish?	_____	_____
d) Do catechists receive an in-service on providing support to students with disabilities?	_____	_____
• Social		
a) Do parishioners with disabilities actively participate in your men's and women's societies, senior citizen groups, PTA, etc.?	_____	_____
b) Are they included in your youth activities?	_____	_____
c) Are they considered in planning athletic / recreational programs?	_____	_____
• Apostolic		
a) Have persons with disabilities been elected to your parish council?	_____	_____
b) Have they been active members of your Legion of Mary, Sodality, Pro-Life Committee, St. Vincent de Paul Society, etc.?	_____	_____
6. What is being done to promote awareness and sensitivity to parishioners with disabling conditions? Has this been the subject of:		
a) Homilies?	_____	_____
b) Retreat and recollection day conferences?	_____	_____
c) Talks at meetings of parish organizations?	_____	_____
d) School and religious education programs?	_____	_____
e) Scripture study groups?	_____	_____
f) In-service for teachers and catechists?	_____	_____
g) Parish workshops?	_____	_____
7. What is being done to minister with families Which have members who are disabled?		
a) Is there support when a disability is first identified, such as a hospital visit or home visit when a child with a disability is born?	_____	_____
b) Is on-going support provided?	_____	_____

	Yes	No
8. Is the parish staff knowledgeable of community agencies for people with disabilities in the Diocesan area, for the purpose of referral?	_____	_____
9. Does your parish minister to the residents of group homes, nursing homes, or other residential facilities within parish boundaries?	_____	_____
10. Does your parish registration form include questions regarding family members with disabilities or functional limitations?	_____	_____
11. Does your parish census form include questions regarding family members with disabilities or functional limitations?	_____	_____
12. Does your parish have an outreach/volunteer program or parish advocacy program to help meet the needs of parishioners with disabilities?	_____	_____

**Adapted, with permission of the Catholic Office of Disability Ministry,
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