

# Catechetical Resources for Children and Youth with Disability

Recommended by Diocese of San Jose, Friends in Faith Committee

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (USCCB)  
(800) 235-8722 or [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

- ***Pastoral Statement of United States Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities (1978/1989)***: A landmark document that set forth the vision for ministry with persons with disabilities in our country.
- ***Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities (1995)***.
- ***Welcome and Justice for People with Disabilities (1998)***.
- ***Welcome and Justice for People with Disabilities: A Parish Resource Guide (2003)***. This excellent document helps a parish evaluate how welcoming and inclusive it is for persons with disabilities. Includes ideas for liturgists, homilists, religious education/youth ministry programs, Catholic schools and more.

***Kennedy Curriculum*** (the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities) Available in English or Spanish from Silver Burdett Ginn Religion (877) 275-4725 or [www.RCLBenziger.com](http://www.RCLBenziger.com). The curriculum is listed in their catalog, but is not currently on their website.

This program is a collection of 220 lesson plans and is written for students ages 5 - 18 who have mild or moderate cognitive disability. The segments are quite detailed, including specifically orchestrated and appropriate questions to facilitate follow-up discussions. Other components of the curriculum are lesson plans on the liturgical year and prayer services. The plans were developed so that they might be used for pull-out time for students who are unable to stay in a regular classroom. The curriculum could also be used to home school children.

***National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities*** provides excellent information on various types of disabilities including fact sheets and teaching ideas. [www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org)

***Opening Doors to People with Disabilities, Volume I: Pastoral Manual (1995), Volume II: Resource File (1997)***. ***Volume II***, Chapter 3, Section A includes many practical articles and forms published by the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, Washington D.C. (202) 529-2933; (202) 529-2934 (tty) or [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org)

***Sacraments: Gifts for All*** Available for Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. A very solid resource developed by the Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators, Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, University of Dayton, Ohio. (888) 532-3389 or [www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice](http://www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice). These four booklets published by the Center for Ministry with People with Disabilities of the University of Dayton. These booklets give catechists strategies to be used to teach students with mental disability in the regular religious education classroom. Using learning style theory and real life experience the authors show catechists how to adapt a lesson plan to suit the needs of the individual child or youth. The value of this approach is that regular parish catechetical programs is the basis for educating all. This can allow the child or youth with disabilities to be taught in either an inclusive classroom or in a separate situation.

***Welcome One, Welcome All—Resource Binder*** Practical and readily applicable ideas and strategies compiled from dioceses throughout the United States on how to make your religious education/youth ministry programs more welcoming and inclusive. Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators, Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, University of Dayton, Ohio. (888) 532-3389 or [www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice](http://www.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice)

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***A Place for All, Ministry for Youth with Special Needs*** Information about many of the neurological differences that affect young people, tips for educating the entire community about these differences, advice on how to reach out to youth with special needs, practical steps to modify our facilities to meet the needs of youth with neurological differences, training tools for empowering catechists to work with special needs youth John E. Barone and the Monarch School, St. Mary's Press, [www.smp.org](http://www.smp.org)

***Catechists for All Children*** Create a positive and successful learning environment for all, valuable insights and methods that accommodate unique emotional and behavioral needs in the classroom. Joseph D. White and Ana Arista White, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com)

***Making Things Right, Called to His Supper, Joy, Joy, the Mass***, Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Jeannine Leichner, Our Sunday Visitor, [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com)

***Handbook for Today's Catholic Children***, Overview of Catholic teachings in simple language, Francine O'Connor, Liguori <http://www.liguori.org/>

***Gospel Weeklies, Seeds, Promise***, Pflaum <http://www.pflaum.com/catalog/childcat/pgwhome.htm>

## ***Youth Ministry Access***

To experience the variety of resources and download free sample materials available on *Youth Ministry Access*, go to the preview site located at:

[http://secure.cmdnet.org/access/index.cfm?switch=ymahs\\_preview&CFID=510622&CFTOKEN=8d2f16f41a596c66-158E0B58-AC3A-7284-185FF3EAB2BEB46A](http://secure.cmdnet.org/access/index.cfm?switch=ymahs_preview&CFID=510622&CFTOKEN=8d2f16f41a596c66-158E0B58-AC3A-7284-185FF3EAB2BEB46A)

*Youth Ministry Access* subscribers receive new resources and program opportunities each season, including weekly youth gatherings, retreats, and special events. For a sample listing, go to:

[http://secure.cmdnet.org/access/season\\_hs\\_trial.cfm?SID=1&CFID=358143&CFTOKEN=8196cbc3b2e99b61-469705CC-E132-480E-1807485633FA8BE3](http://secure.cmdnet.org/access/season_hs_trial.cfm?SID=1&CFID=358143&CFTOKEN=8196cbc3b2e99b61-469705CC-E132-480E-1807485633FA8BE3)

***Call to Discipleship*** To experience a preview of *Call to Discipleship*, including a sample session and the faith learner website designed for youth, go to the demo site at: [www.calltodiscipleship.com](http://www.calltodiscipleship.com)

***The ABC of ADD for Catechists***, Madonna Wojtaszek-Healy, Ph.D. a book designed to assist catechists in understanding Attention Deficit Disorder to better be able to nurture the faith and spiritual development of children afflicted with this disorder

***Rooted In Love*** 2003 The purpose of this booklet is to assist catechists in understanding Attention Deficit Disorder, so that they may be better able to nurture the faith and spiritual development of children afflicted with this condition. [www.rootedinlove.org](http://www.rootedinlove.org)