

PURPOSE

The Ministry with Persons with Disabilities is an office of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita. Our purpose is to assist Catholics with disabilities and their families to become actively involved in their parish and diocesan communities, according to their interests.

The ministry is pastoral in nature, focusing on religious education, spiritual development and active participation within the Church.

The ministry is working to replace apathy and misunderstanding with sensitivity, welcoming and inclusion of persons with disabilities. We want all to recognize and benefit from the gifts that persons with disabilities have to share with their faith communities.

"Recognizing that individuals with disabilities have a claim to our respect because they are persons, because they share in the one redemption of Christ, and because they contribute to our society by their activity within it, the Church must become an advocate for and with them."

U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS'
PASTORAL STATEMENT

PURPOSE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

YOU CAN HELP . . .

- with transportation to various activities.
- with retreats and days of renewal.
- volunteer at Holy Family Camp with persons with disabilities.
- become a reader for the taping of the Catholic Advance for persons with visual impairment.
- interpret Mass and other church activities in sign language for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired.
- become a parish representative.
- speak to parish and civic groups about the ministry.

Charitable donations are tax deductible.
We always appreciate volunteers.

To be included on the mailing list, request the Catholic Advance on tape, make a charitable donation or volunteer, please contact:

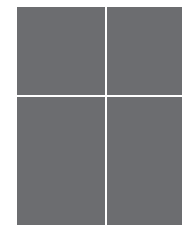
Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA
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MINISTRY WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



SENSITIVITY • WELCOMING • INCLUSION



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF WICHITA

PROGRAMS

INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION GRANTS

The *Holy Family Special Needs Foundation* provides funds to enable Catholic schools to accommodate students with disabilities. This continues a long tradition of education and spiritual formation with Catholics with disabilities.

HOLY FAMILY CAMP

Holy Family Camp is a week long spiritual experience held each summer for persons with developmental disabilities.

Campers enjoy a week of prayer, Mass, Reconciliation, lessons, music, swimming, games, crafts, special events and friendship. The staff are volunteers and come from all over the diocese. Members of several Knights of Columbus Councils donate, prepare and serve dinner each night.

A modest fee is charged, but it covers only a small percentage of the actual cost. Knights of Columbus Councils, individuals and businesses donate time, money, food and supplies to assure the success of the annual event.

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MESSENGER BIBLE STUDIES

The Messenger Bible Study groups meet at parishes throughout the diocese. Small groups gather each week September to May to learn more about God and our Catholic faith. Volunteers prepare and share lessons with persons with developmental disabilities.

FAITH AND LIGHT COMMUNITIES

Faith and Light is a worldwide community of communities comprised of persons with developmental disabilities, friends, and family members. It is a supportive Christian fellowship rooted in the Gospel of Jesus. It has a distinctive spirituality and a desire for Christian unity. Monthly gatherings include an international theme, prayer, and time to be with each other.

Over 200 persons with disabilities and their families and friends participate in Faith and Light Community activities throughout the diocese.

DAYS OF RETREAT

Days of Retreat are offered each year for persons with disabilities, their families and friends. Persons with disabilities are matched with volunteers to assist them. Presentations, crafts, music and Mass center on a common theme for the day. The Knights of Columbus and others donate, prepare and serve lunch for the retreats.

BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The *Catholic Advance* is available on audiotape for persons with visual impairment. The newspaper has been read to tape by volunteers and sent out weekly since 1992. In 1998, the diocese received the **Opening Doors Award** from the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities. It was the first such program in the nation. Since then several other dioceses have requested assistance in setting up similar services.

Angel stories on tape are a recent addition to the services to persons with visual impairment. These are taped and distributed bi-monthly.

DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED

Mass is interpreted in sign language each week at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Andover, Church of the Magdalen, Wichita and St. Peter the Apostle Church, Schulte.

OBJECTIVES

SENSITIVITY
WELCOMING
INCLUSION