

Policy for Catechesis of People with Special Needs

“The Church must recognize and appreciate the contributions that persons with disabilities can make to the Church’s spiritual life and encourage them to do the Lord’s work in the world according to their God-given talents and capacity.”

Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities, #47

Whereas, “the sacred ministers cannot refuse the sacraments to those who ask for them at appropriate times, are properly disposed and are not prohibited by law from receiving them.” (Can. 843)...

Therefore, it is the policy of the Diocese of Crookston that people with special needs be adequately and appropriately prepared to receive the Sacraments.

- A. “Catholics with disabilities have the right to participate in the Sacraments as full functioning members of the local ecclesial community. All forms of the liturgy should be completely accessible to persons with disabilities, since these forms are the essence of the spiritual ties that binds the Christian community together. As much as possible they should be invited to play a more active role in the liturgy and should be provided with proper training and aids to do so.” (NDC, 133)
- B. “It is the responsibility of the pastor and lay leaders to make sure that the door of participation in the life of the Church is always open for persons with disabilities. To the end, the physical design of parish buildings must include easy accessibility for persons with disabilities.” (ibid.)
- C. “Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities (USCCB 1995) provides general catechetical guidelines for the celebration of the Sacraments, including the Eucharist, with persons with a variety of disabilities.”