



## **Pastoral Ministry WITH Persons WITH Disabilities Parish Resource Guide**

A *PRAISE* Resource of the Archdiocese of Newark  
by Anne Masters, MA

*Pastoral Ministry WITH Persons WITH Disabilities Parish Resource Guide* is intended to empower clergy and lay to respond pastorally to individuals and families living with disabilities. It provides an introduction to foundational issues, general strategies and orientation for the inclusion and participation of individuals with learning, intellectual and developmental disabilities in catechesis, liturgy and the full life of the parish, to the extent that s/he is able to.

Some of the subjects covered are:

- Foundation of the ministry in Church teaching; educating your parish; etiquette and hospitality; walking with families living with disabilities; support for families
- Catechesis and Inclusion - getting started, strategies and adapting resources, impact of disability on learning; facilitating communication and managing behavior; communicating with parents and teachers regarding a particular child's/teen's learning support needs
- What to teach, particularly for sacrament preparation; adapted resources for prayers, reconciliation, Eucharist and confirmation; teaching children with autism spectrum disorders how to attend Mass
- Examples of ideas from some parishes

**To order your copy for \$39.00 (shipping & handling included)**

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## Endorsements for

### *Pastoral Ministry WITH Persons WITH Disabilities Parish Resource Guide*

The new *Pastoral Ministry WITH Persons WITH Disabilities Parish Resource Guide* is an excellent resource and a valuable contribution to the field of inclusive ministry and catechesis. The theological case for including our sisters and brothers with disabilities is combined with a scientifically sound knowledge base and crowned with some touching vignettes that give us a glimpse into their lives. However, the gold mine of this guide is the wealth of practical learning techniques and strategies that are well thought out, field tested and fully explained. Many of them could actually be useful for catechists in a variety of learning situations beyond what we commonly think of as "special needs."

*Eugene V. Tozzi, Ph.D.,  
Associate Director, Catechetical Office, Archdiocese of Newark*

Anne Masters' Parish Resource Guide will soon be recognized as the seminal resource to promote meaningful inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families into the faith-based communities of their choice. After years of working WITH families and parishes, Anne understands how desperately families want to be a part of the church community, the benefits of participation for both families and the parish, and the hurdles frequently encountered while working toward inclusion.

Effective inclusion is only possible through developing the systems to support the use of best practices and connecting people to do the right thing. This guide describes the components of a successful system, including:

How to teach skills: Descriptions of evidence-based strategies are described to teach skills such as attends church and participates in Mass;

Training manuals to assist clergy, volunteers, catechists employees, peers, and family members who want to help but don't know how;

Suggestions to adapt instructional materials, schedules, communication and motivational systems for religious education and participation in the liturgy, all of which can be individualized to meet the unique needs of each participant, his/her family, and his/her parish; and

References and resource lists.

All of us seek communities that will welcome and support us. Places of worship need to be ready to welcome everyone. Individuals with developmental disabilities need to be prepared to become active members of their parish communities. Spend some time with this resource guide and learn how to make real, meaningful inclusion a reality.

*Linda Meyer, Ed.D., MPA, BCBA-D, CPT  
Linda S. Meyer Consulting*

This compelling resource reminds us that our churches are incomplete without the gifts and presence of people with disabilities and their families. But it also offers practical ideas for putting this conviction into practice.

*Erik Carter, Ph.D., author of Including People With Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Service Providers, Families, & Congregations (Brookes Publishing)*