Did you know that individuals who cannot speak can still receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Some people don’t communicate by speech, or with verbal expressive language. They do communicate by other methods, either using technology, pictures, American Sign Language, writing, etc. It’s important to note that someone’s ability to speak, or not, is no reflection on comprehension. People can have communication difficulties due to autism, selective mutism, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, post-stroke complications, etc. In the Revised Guidelines for Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities, the US Bishops say that “Catholics with significant communication disorders may be permitted to make their confessions using the communication system with which they are most fluent.” For guidance on pastoral support, please contact me, or check the ministry website. You can read and download pdf of the full document on the USCCB website. You will find more on what the bishops say about the Sacrament of Reconciliation in par. 27-31 Use the link below.

USCCB Revised Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities

Food For Thought

We are all created in the image of God. As Catholics we respect all life, and commit to supporting the flourishing of all people.

Thank you Eileen O’Neill, Director of Special Education Services for the Archdiocese, for this great picture! It captures the essence perfectly!

For tips on pastoral support and “getting to know the person”

For tips on catechetical support and planning

We are preeminently an Eucharistic community and a sacrament, a living sign of Jesus Christ’s presence. The Eucharist which we celebrate together is both the sign and the means of our present unity, as well as of the still greater unity to be achieved in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

RCAN Mission Statement: As Church Constitution of the Liturgy, 2; Lumen Gentium, 1

Inclusive Family Mass Schedule
September 2019 –June 2020

Everyone is welcome in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark. However, some individuals and families living with intellectual, developmental and/or other disabilities do not feel comfortable attending their local parish liturgy. Please help them know that they DO BELONG and ARE WELCOME. Because we know that some people are still not attending their parish liturgy due to this, the Archdiocese of Newark also has Inclusive Family Masses that are particularly adapted for individuals with disabilities, their families and friends. They are shorter, some have no music, but at all of these liturgies, they are told they do not need to worry about any extra noises or moving around. We are just gathered together to celebrate God in our lives and to draw strength from this.

Link for Mass schedules and parish information.
Accompanying Families

We currently have two groups for parents of individuals with disabilities that meet at St. John the Evangelist in Bergenfield, one for moms and one for dads. The groups provide a safe space to acknowledge the joys, hopes, and struggles of raising individuals with disabilities and launching them into the world, with other parents who understand their journey. It is also an opportunity for the Church to accompany the parents in their support of life.

Where
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Parish Life Center
15 North Washington Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ

“And A Child Shall Lead Us” 2019 - 2020
A Spiritual Journey For Mothers of Individuals with Disabilities to be nourished with prayer, food and friendship. Refreshments provided.

Typically the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM, unless there is Mass.

October 9: Welcome Back
November 13: It’s Good To Be Together
December 11: Advent Mass
March 11
April 8
May 13: Mass and May Crowning

Questions:
St. John Religious Education Office:
201-384-3601

Anne Masters,
Pastoral Ministry w/ Persons w/ Disabilities
Anne.Masters@rcan.org or 973-497-4309

All Dads of Individuals with Disabilities:
Come join other dads who understand the joys and struggles you live with as the father of individuals with disabilities. Refreshments provided.

Typically the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM,

Sept 18 • Oct 16 • Nov 20 • Dec 18
Jan 15 • Feb 19 • Mar 18
Apr 15 • May 20 • Jun 17

Questions:
Deacon Jim Detura
201-747-0713 or jdeturarph@aol.com

Anne Masters,
Pastoral Ministry w/ Persons w/ Disabilities
Anne.Masters@rcan.org or 973-497-4309

For more info on moms’ and dads’ groups

Thank you for ALL you do, for ALL of God’s people!

Yours in Christ,
Anne

To remove your name from our mailing list, email PastoralMinistry.Disabilities@rcan.org.
Questions or comments? E-mail us at Anne.Masters@rcan.org or call 973-497-4309