

# Catechesis and Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities

## *We can help:*

Every parish should be able to respond to the needs of those with disabilities, however; not all parish communities may be equipped to provide catechetical formation or sacramental preparation for persons with disabilities. In these instances, please contact Wendy Scherbart, Diocesan Director for Catechetical Ministry, [wscherbart@dsj.org](mailto:wscherbart@dsj.org) or 408-983-0138.

In the Diocese of San Jose, the Friends in Faith committee supports ministry to persons with disabilities in the areas of awareness raising, accessibility, and catechetical resources.

Go to <http://www.dsj.org/disabilities> for information, resources, Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities.



*Diocese of  
San Jose*

1150 N. First Street, Suite 100  
San Jose, CA 95112-4966  
[www.dsj.org](http://www.dsj.org)

# Catechesis and Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities



*He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms.*

*Is 40:11*

“As Jesus embraced all who came to him, so do we in the Diocese of San Jose. With particular concern and love, we reach out to those with disabilities. It is in this spirit that we affirm that a disability of itself is not a reason to deprive anyone from the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.”

-Bishop Patrick J. McGrath



*Diocese of  
San Jose*



*Every pastor takes care in a special way for persons with disabilities by providing:*

- Suitable preparation for the celebration of the sacraments
- Catechetical formation to those who are limited, insofar as they are able to participate
- Continued accessibility to all the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation



*Baptism*, as the sacrament of universal salvation, is to be made available to all who freely ask for it



The bishop insures that the *Sacrament of Confirmation* is conferred on all who are prepared and answer Christ's call.



The celebration of the *Eucharist* is the center of the entire Christian life. The criterion for reception of Holy Communion is the same for all persons.



*Reconciliation* as long as the individual is capable of having a sense of contrition for having committed sin, even if he or she cannot describe the sin precisely in words, the person may receive sacramental absolution.

The Catholic Church “promotes accessibility of mind and heart, so that all persons with disabilities may be welcomed at worship and at every level of service as full members of the Body of Christ.”

“All persons with disabilities have the capacity to proclaim the Gospel and to be living witnesses to its truth within the community of faith and offer valuable gifts. They are not just the recipients of catechesis- they are also its agents.”  
(National Directory for Catechesis 49)

**The Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities indicate that:**

- Through baptism, all Catholics are equal in dignity in the sight of God and have the same divine calling
- All Catholics have a right to participate in the sacraments
- A fully accessible parish provides physical accommodation and welcoming attitudes to all parishioners

