



Mary O'Meara
Executive Director
Archdiocese of Washington
Department of Special Needs Ministries

Mary O'Meara earned her graduate degree at Gallaudet University, the only Liberal Arts University for the Deaf in the world. Mary is the Executive Director for the Archdiocese of Washington's Department of Special Needs Ministries. The Department of Special Needs serves persons across the archdiocese who are Deaf, persons with developmental and physical disabilities, persons who are blind, Veterans with war related injury, persons living with Chronic Illness, families who have received an unexpected prenatal diagnosis of lethal condition and persons living with mental illness.

In October 2017, Mary was a speaker at the Vatican Conference on Disabilities entitled **“Catechism and Persons with Disabilities: A Necessary Engagement in the Daily Pastoral Life of the Church”** sponsored by the **Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization.**



Mary serves on the Executive Board of the International Catholic Foundation for the Services of Deaf Persons, based in Liverpool, England, and the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute Board in Washington, DC.

Many of the Department of Special Needs resources are now available through the Archdiocese of Washington's website and accessible to all.

<https://adw.org/living-the-faith/special-needs/>

Diocese of Providence
Diocesan Faith Formation Convocation
Saturday, March 14, 2020
Bryant University
1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI



Archdiocese of Washington

Mary O'Meara Workshops

Workshop #1

“Moved In; But Still Waiting to Belong”

The Person with Disability in the Life of the Church; The Theological Framework

“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. Their involvement enriches every aspect of Church life. They are not just recipients of catechesis--they are also its agents” (NDC, 49 Can 204, 208) **Join us as we explore the Theological underpinning for why we do what we do to ensure all persons are welcomed and valued as vital members of our parish families. How can you and I do to support persons with disabilities in our parishes?**

Workshop #2

Supporting Children and Adults with Special Needs in Catechetical Settings with a Universal Design

Every person bears God’s image, every person is a unique gift from God. Every person has a need to express their spiritual nature, nurtured by faith in Jesus. Join us for a workshop that will explore a Universal Design in providing access to faith for persons with disabilities. Universal Design for learning is an approach **to curriculum design** that can help teachers **customize curriculum** to serve **all learners**, regardless of ability, disability, age or cultural and linguistic background. **UDL provides a blueprint for designing strategies, materials, assessments, and tools to reach and teach students with diverse needs.**

For more information: Contact Your Parish Catechetical Leader or Our Office at 278-4578

Visit <https://www.discovercatholicfaith.org/convocation>

<https://dioceseofprovidence.org/apostolate-for-people-with-disabilities>