

## Checklist for Evaluating Parish Efforts in Disability Ministry

	Yes	No
1. Are you aware of parishioners with the following disabilities:		
a) Mental retardation	—	—
b) Deafness or hearing loss	—	—
c) Blindness or visual impairments	—	—
d) Physical disabilities	—	—
e) Emotional disturbance or mental illness	—	—
f) Other	—	—
2. Has your parish taken any means to identify persons with disabilities?	—	—
3. Has anyone discussed with parishioners with disabilities how each of them could better share in the worship and other activities of the parish?	—	—
4. Are your church and other buildings accessible to persons with disabilities? (See access surveys, Chapter One for more detailed requirements.)		
• Parking space		
a) Are convenient parking spaces reserved and marked?	—	—
b) Are the lanes sufficiently wide for wheelchair use?	—	—
• Exterior of church & other parish facilities		
a) Is the sidewalk slope easy to negotiate?	—	—
b) Are the steps easy to negotiate?	—	—
c) Is there a handrail on the steps?	—	—
d) Is there a ramp, chairlift, elevator, as needed?	—	—
e) Can the door be opened by a person with limited strength and mobility?	—	—
• Interior of church & other parish facilities		
a) Is the sanctuary accessible to persons with mobility impairments?	—	—
b) Are there pew cuts for people in wheelchairs?	—	—

Yes No

- c) Are Eucharistic Ministers trained to bring the Eucharist to those who have difficulty approaching the altar? — —
- d) Are assistive listening devices available in church and confessional? — —
- e) Is a place available for persons who are deaf and others to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation face to face? — —
- f) Is a place reserved that provides a vantage point for lip reading for persons with limited vision? — —
- g) Is the amplification system adequate to provide clear sound? — —
- h) Is the microphone moveable so as not to impede lip reading and for use by wheelchairs users? — —
- i) Is sign and oral interpretation provided for persons who are deaf? — —
- j) Are braille and large print materials available? — —
- k) Are restroom doors wide enough for a wheelchair? — —
- l) Are there grab bars in the restroom stalls? — —

• Assistance

- a) Are people available to offer assistance to those entering church and meeting rooms? — —
- b) Is transportation to church and other activities provided? — —

5. What is being done to integrate people with disabilities into parish life?

• Liturgy

- a) Do parishioners with disabilities act as altar servers? — —
- b) Do they serve as lectors/hospitality ministers? — —
- c) Do they serve as Eucharistic ministers? — —
- d) Do they serve as ushers? — —
- e) Do they sing in the choir or play an instrument for liturgies? — —
- f) Do they participate in the presentation of the gifts? — —

	Yes	No
• Education		
a) Are people with disabilities included in your parish school as students or teachers?	—	—
b) Are they included in your religious education programs as students or teachers?	—	—
c) Are parishioners with disabilities considered when adult education programs, retreats, etc., are planned for the parish?	—	—
d) Do catechists receive an in-service on providing support to students with disabilities?	—	—
• Social		
a) Do parishioners with disabilities actively participate in your men's and women's societies, senior citizen groups, PTA, etc.?	—	—
b) Are they included in your youth activities?	—	—
c) Are they considered in planning athletic/recreational programs?	—	—
• Apostolic		
a) Have persons with disabilities been elected to your parish council?	—	—
b) Have they been active members of your Legion of Mary, Sodality, Pro-Life Committee, St. Vincent de Paul Society, etc.?	—	—
6. What is being done to promote awareness and sensitivity to parishioners with disabling conditions? Has this been the subject of:		
a) Homilies?	—	—
b) Retreat and recollection day conferences?	—	—
c) Talks at meetings of parish organizations?	—	—
d) School and religious education programs?	—	—
e) Scripture study groups?	—	—
f) In-service for teachers and catechists?	—	—
g) Parish workshops?	—	—
7. What is being done to minister with families which have members who are disabled?		
a) Is there support when a disability is first identified, such as a hospital visit or home visit when a child with a disability is born?	—	—
b) Is on-going support provided?	—	—

	Yes	No
8. Is the parish staff knowledgeable of community agencies for people with disabilities in the diocesan area, for the purpose of referral?	—	—
9. Does your parish minister to the residents of group homes, nursing homes, or other residential facilities within parish boundaries?	—	—
10. Does your parish registration form include questions regarding family members with disabilities or functional limitations?	—	—
11. Does your parish census form include questions regarding family members with disabilities or functional limitations?	—	—
12. Does your parish have an outreach/volunteer program to help meet the needs of parishioners?	—	—

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