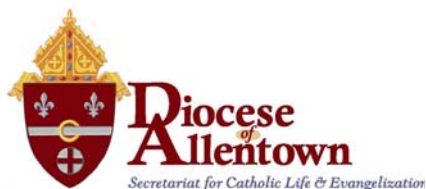


WHAT IS A DISABILITY?

- ◆ A disability is defined as difficulty seeing or hearing, moving the body, or understanding everything quickly.
- ◆ It is a physical or mental impairment, which limits one or more of a person's life activities.
- ◆ It can be from birth and/or it can come with age. Approximately one out of five people lives with some type of disability.
- ◆ Types:
 - Mobility Impairments
 - Blind or Vision Impairments
 - Deaf or Hard of Hearing
 - Intellectual Disabilities
 - Learning Disabilities
 - Mental Illness



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For disability advocacy or to learn more about the Office for Ministry with Persons with Disabilities contact:

Sr. Janice Marie Johnson, RSM
Director, *Office for Ministry with Persons with Disabilities*
Catholic Life & Evangelization
900 S. Woodward St.
Allentown, PA 18103-4179

jjohnson@allentowndiocese.org
www.allentowndiocese.org
Phone: (610) 289-8900 x245
Fax: (610) 289-7917

Additional online resources:
National Catholic Partnership on Disability
www.ncpd.org
National Catholic Office for the Deaf
www.ncod.org
National Organization on Disability
www.nod.org
U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
www.usccb.org



OFFICE FOR MINISTRY WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**“We are one flock
that serves a
single shepherd.”**

-Pastoral Statement of
U.S. Catholic Bishops

MISSION STATEMENT

The Office for Ministry with Persons with Disabilities of Catholic Life & Evangelization, Diocese of Allentown, is committed to facilitate the implementation of the Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities which calls for “realizing the unique gifts individuals with disabilities have to offer the Church” and Society, and to advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the full participation of the liturgical and sacramental life of the church.

“ We are all called to include people with disabilities in every aspect of parish life including liturgical ministries and parish/ social committees.”

Sr. Janice Marie Johnson, RSM

Sr. Janice Marie Johnson, RSM
Director

PROGRAMS

◆ Parish Advocacy

Pastors are asked to name an advocate to help promote the active involvement of people with disabilities in the life of the parish. These advocates serve as liaisons between persons with disabilities, their parish and the Office for Ministry with Persons with Disabilities.

◆ Deaf Apostolate

Interpreted Masses for the Deaf are offered on a weekly basis. Some diocesan liturgies and events are also interpreted. Sacramental preparation materials are available as needed.

A portable assistive listening system for those with a hearing impairment can be borrowed for meetings and events.

◆ Services for Adults

Services for adults with developmental disabilities are offered on an annual basis. They include retreats and trips.

◆ General Advocacy

Upon request, advocacy for persons with disabilities and their families is offered in a variety of areas including housing, education and spiritual growth.

WHERE ARE ALL THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?

- ◆ One out of five people has some type of disabling condition.
- ◆ Many are prevented from participating in their Church and communities due to:
 - Physical Barriers
 - Attitudinal Barriers
- ◆ The Diocese of Allentown has about 55,000 Catholics with some type of a disability.
- ◆ The Office for Ministry with Persons with Disabilities meets the needs of these individuals through our programs at the parish and diocesan level.