

10 REASONS

Congregations Must Become Accessible To Persons with Disabilities

1. If God welcomes all of us into God's kingdom, can we do less than welcome persons with disabilities into our parishes?
2. Persons with disabilities are also persons with abilities. Potentially, this offers the greatest untapped resource in any parish.
3. Persons with disabilities have lessons to teach us about mortality, patience, the sanctity of suffering, and living productively with one's limitations.
4. Each of us is only temporarily able-bodied. We are only an accident or a disease away from being "people with disabilities."
5. The matriarchs and patriarchs in our congregations comprise the largest group of people with disabilities. These people who have founded, funded, and nourished our congregations deserve to continue active, not excluded by steps or inadequate lighting or poor sounds systems or too small print.
6. While one person is excluded from the Body, that Body cannot be complete. While the Body is incomplete, it cannot function fully.
7. An accessible congregation is an outward and visible sign to the community that we mean what we say, that there can be no outcasts in our church.
8. Welcoming people with disabilities teaches our children about diversity and says to them that we need not strive for perfection.
9. Most architectural modifications undertaken on behalf of persons with disabilities benefit the entire congregation.
10. God said to St. Paul, "My grace is sufficient unto you. My strength is made perfect in your weakness."