

# Catechesis for Children with Special Needs

## HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR CATECHISTS

Compiled by Christine Way Skinner, 2010

### BOOKS ON INCLUSIVE CATECHESIS

Breeding, Malesa, Hood Dana, and Whitworth, Jerry, **Let All the Children Come to Me - a Practical Guide to Including Children with Disabilities in Your Church Ministries** Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications, 2006.

A very good book explaining the theological rationale for inclusion from a Protestant perspective with an extremely comprehensive appendix with print, audio-visual and web resources.

Foley, Edward, ed. **Developmental Disabilities and Sacramental Access - New Paradigms for Sacramental Encounters.** Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994.

An excellent resource on understanding the sacraments with respect to people with disabilities. The essay on canon law by John Huels is particularly good.

Newman, Barbara J. **Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spiritual Growth of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders** Grand Rapids, MI: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2006.

This book will enable church leaders to more fully include children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) into the Church.

O'Donnell, Brigid, **Seasons of Grace: Sacramental Preparation for Teens and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities** May be ordered from Cardinal Strich University Book Store, Follett College Store #327, 6801 North Yates Road, Milwaukee, WI 53217.

A curriculum to prepare teens and adults with intellectual disabilities for the sacraments of Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation and Marriage.

Reynolds, Thomas E. **Vulnerable Communion - A Theology of Disability and Hospitality** Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2008.

An academic exploration of a theology of disability which looks at God's action in human vulnerability.

**The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities - A Comprehensive Developmental Curriculum** Pittsburgh, PA: Diocese of Pittsburgh, 1996.

A sequential, developmental religious education program for children, young adults with cognitive disabilities.

### BOOKS ON DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

Beers, Kylene. **When Kids Can't Read, What Teachers Can Do.** Heineman, New Hampshire, 2003.

Bennet, Barrie and Carol Rolheiser (2001). **Beyond Monet, The Artful Science of Instructional Integration,** Barrie, ON: Bookation, 2001.

Gould Lundy, Kathleen. **What Do I Do About the Kid Who...?** Portland, ME: Stenhouse Publishers, 2004.

Hume, Karen. **Start Where They Are: Differentiating for Success with the Young Adolescent.** Toronto, ON: Pearson Education, 2007.

Marzano, Robert, Pickering, Debra and Pollock, Jane. **Classroom Instruction that Works.** Virginia, VA: Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development, 2001.

Tomlinson, Carol Ann. **The Differentiated Classroom: Responding to the Needs of All Learners.** Virginia, VA: Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development, 1999.

Toronto District School Board **Treasures for Teaching (K-3), Story, Drama, and Dance in the Primary Classroom,** 2006.

Toronto District School Board **Treasures for Teaching (4-8), Story, Drama, and Dance in the Junior/Intermediate Classroom,** 2006

## WEBSITES

**L'Arche - Canada** - [www.larche.ca](http://www.larche.ca)

**L'Arche - USA** - <http://larcheusa.org>

**L'Arche - Internationale** - [www.larche.org/home.en-gb.1.0.index.htm](http://www.larche.org/home.en-gb.1.0.index.htm)

The best place to begin an exploration of the meaning of disabilities and the response of the Christian community.

### **The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD)**

[www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org)

A comprehensive website with resources on a wide range of things pertaining to Catholics with disabilities.

### **The National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry**

[www.nafim.org](http://www.nafim.org)

A number of articles, resources and links for meeting the needs of people with specific disabilities. The downloadable NafiM Info Sheets are particularly good.

### **A Truly Special First Communion by Alma Maish**

[www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/May1999/feature2.asp](http://www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/May1999/feature2.asp)

The story of one teacher's experience journeying with a child with special needs as he prepared for First Eucharist.

### **Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia**

[www.archdiocese-phl.org/evangelization/resplife/pcpd.htm](http://www.archdiocese-phl.org/evangelization/resplife/pcpd.htm)

Has a section of the website devoted to the Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities. There are documents and links to other helpful sites.

### **Diocese of Pittsburgh - Secretariat for Catholic Education**

[www.diopitt.org/education/dpd.htm](http://www.diopitt.org/education/dpd.htm)

Here you will find lots of resources, practical tips.

### **Creating Solutions**

[www.disabilitysolutions.org](http://www.disabilitysolutions.org)

This site focuses on Down's Syndrome in particular.

## **Pathways to Promise - Ministry and Mental Illness**

[www.pathways2promise.org](http://www.pathways2promise.org)

An interfaith technical assistance and resource center offering liturgical and educational materials, program models, and networking information to promote a caring ministry with people with mental illness and their families.

## **Friendship Ministries**

[www.friendship.org](http://www.friendship.org)

An interfaith group with a mission "To share God's love with people who have intellectual disabilities and to enable them to become an active part of God's family. "

## **Curriculum Services Canada**

[www.curriculum.org](http://www.curriculum.org)

Search for differentiated instruction. See especially The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat's Webcasts.

## **Network for Inclusive Catholic Education**

<http://campus.udayton.edu/~ipi/nice.htm>

Includes some excellent resources available for purchases as well as some good links for educational resources.

## **CHURCH DOCUMENTS**

### **Pope Benedict XVI**

Speech to Young People Having Disabilities, April 19, 2008

### **Pope John Paul II**

On the Occasion of the International Symposium on the Dignity and Rights of the Mentally Disabled Person, January 5, 2004

To the Members of the Christian Office for the Disabled, November 13, 2004

Jubilee of the Disabled, December 3, 2000

### **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

National Directory for Catechesis [www.usccb.org/education/ndc/index.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/education/ndc/index.shtml)

Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities, November 1998.

Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities, June 16, 1995.

Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities, 1978