



**Archdiocese of Philadelphia**  
**OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & THE DEAF APOSTOLATE**  
**PARISH/APOSTOLATE CONTACT FORM**



*If you currently do not have a parish disability contact/advocate or would like to appoint a new contact, please complete and return the attached form.*

**Did you know:** More than half of people 65+ years of age report having at least one disability; one in twelve children are diagnosed with a physical or intellectual disability; one in ten of those sitting in pews every Sunday has a serious mental illness. Surveys indicate that there are 14 million of our Catholic brothers and sisters that live with a disability.

The Office for Persons with Disabilities & the Deaf Apostolate (OPD) currently has over 165 Parish Contacts acting on behalf of persons with disabilities and their families in assisting pastors in their role of inviting people to full participation within the Parish. Contacts are volunteers who serve as liaisons between persons with disabilities and their parishes and between the parish and Archdiocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities. Responsibilities include:

- Assisting the pastor in ministry with persons with disabilities and their families
- Identifying persons with disabilities in the parish/apostolate.
- Sensitizing the parish to the needs and gifts of persons with disabilities
- Welcoming and making recommendations for accommodating persons with disabilities in Church life.

The Office provides Parish Contacts with support, resources and workshops through Parish Contact Meetings that are held twice a year at accessible locations throughout the Archdiocese. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sr. Kathleen Schipani, IHM @ 215-587-3530 or email: [sr.kschipani@archphila.org](mailto:sr.kschipani@archphila.org).

**Office for Persons with Disabilities & the Deaf Apostolate**  
**PARISH/APOSTOLATE CONTACT - APPOINTMENT FORM**

**Apostolate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of contact person recommended:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Pastor/Chaplain:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please fax, mail or email to:  
**Office for Persons with Disabilities & the Deaf Apostolate**  
 222 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street-8th Floor  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103  
 215-587-3530 (phone), 267-507-1215 (video phone for Deaf), 215-587-3561 (fax), [sr.kschipani@archphila.org](mailto:sr.kschipani@archphila.org)