



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



*We are asking each Parish to appoint a person to this role.
Please complete and return this form.*

[Click here to complete on line.](#)

If you have a Parish Contact for Persons with Disabilities who was previously appointed and is still active, there is no need to fill out this form unless there are changes in the contact information.

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) goal is to have a Parish Contact/Advocate from each parish 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.

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 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.

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

Name of Parish: _____

Address: _____ **Parish Email:** _____

Name of contact person recommended: _____

Address: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Newly Appointed <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Service

Phone: _____ **Email address:** _____

Signature of Pastor: _____ **Date:** _____

Please fax, mail or email to:
OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & THE DEAF APOSTOLATE
 222 North 17th 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