



Each unique person together creates a beautiful picture

The desire to live fully and experience new things is also felt by many young people with physical, mental and sensory disabilities. Even though they may not always be able to have the same experiences as others, they possess amazing resources and abilities that are often far above average. The Lord Jesus grants them other gifts, which the community is called to recognize and appreciate, so that they can discover his plan of love for each of them. (Christus Vivit 149)

TIPS FOR INCLUSION WITHIN MINISTRY

- 1. Model acceptance and respect**
- 2. Explicitly get to know and affirm strengths of each member**
- 3. Provide a peer buddy**
- 4. Use "Person First" language (individual with epilepsy)**
- 5. Check your facilities to see how accessible they are to all (consider rooms in use, restrooms, doorways, visuals on signs/materials, etc.)**
- 6. Recognize that there may be a variety of literacy levels in your group**

Inclusion is a Gospel Value Respect is a holy word!

We call upon all ministry leaders and parishes to use the resources of our faith community, the resources and talents of youth and young adults to shape a Church and society more respectful of the life, dignity, and rights of individuals with disabilities. (Renewing the Vision)

MORE TIPS FOR INCLUSION WITHIN MINISTRY

**7. Be creative of how everyone is included.
Create new jobs if you need to!**

8. Let others see your own mistakes and imperfections

9. Give respectful and honest explanations so others can relate to individuals with mental illness, behavior challenges or disability.

10. Never underestimate the courage it takes for an individual with a disability to show up. Let them know you are glad they are there!

*Office for Persons with Disabilities &
The Deaf Apostolate*

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