



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

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

The goal of the Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) is to have a Parish Advocate from each parish/apostolate 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/apostolate. Advocates 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/pastoral leaders in ministry with persons with disabilities and their families
- Identifying persons with disabilities in the parish/apostolate
- Sensitizing the community to the needs and gifts of persons with disabilities
- Welcoming and making recommendations for accommodating persons with disabilities in church life.

OPD provides parish/apostolate Advocates with support, resources and workshops through Parish Advocate Meetings held twice a year and monthly updates on disability ministry news and events. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Natalie Morales at 215-587-3530 or email: opd@archphila.org

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

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

Name of Parish/Apostolate: _____

Address: _____ **Parish County:** _____

_____ **Parish Email:** _____

Name of recommended Parish Advocate: _____

Address: _____

- ☐ Newly Appointed
☐ Continuing Service

Phone: _____ **Email address:** _____

Name of Pastor/Chaplain/Coordinator (please print): _____

Signature of Pastor/Chaplain/Coordinator: _____ **Date:** _____

Please 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) opd@archphila.org