

PHOTO GALLERY

Access and Inclusion Ideas Photo Gallery



An accessible ambo allows open space beneath a height adjustable reading table so that wheelchair foot plates clear the supporting structure. Children and taller or shorter adults also benefit from an accessible ambo. Photo courtesy of Tortorelli Creations, www.tortorelli.com.



*A small ambo and adjustable microphone accommodate a parishioner to proclaim the Word at Old St. Mary Catholic Church, Chicago, a 2009 Open Hearts Award winning congregation.**



Mezuzah at wheelchair height say “all are welcome to participate” at Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, Bethesda, MD, a 2008 Junior Open Hearts Award winning congregation.



A lift to the bimah at Temple Anshe Sholom, Olympia Fields, IL, a 2014 Open Hearts Award winning synagogue, accommodates congregants who use wheelchairs.



A ramp to the bimah at Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, Bethesda, MD, a 2008 Junior Open Hearts Award winning congregation, allows everyone to participate in worship services.



A ramp to the altar allows parishioners to venerate and view the articles on display during Holy Week services at 2009 Open Hearts Award winning St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, Aurora, IL.



*A railing to the altar assists lectors and ministers of communion at St. Mary Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, Chicago, IL, a 2010 Open Hearts Award winning congregation.**



2010 Open Hearts Award winning Curè of Ars Catholic Church, Merrick, NY, created pew cut-outs by removing existing pews. Parishioners who use wheelchairs no longer sit in the aisles to participate in liturgy but now have a place to sit within the assembly.



2014 Open Hearts Award winning St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Charleston, IL shortened pews to create pew cutouts in their church.



*An individual, small chalice is placed on the altar before Mass and is used for wine only for a parishioner with celiac disease who cannot receive the host at 1998 Open Hearts Award winning Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church, Flossmoor IL.**



Large print prayer books are one of many accommodations provided at 2014 Open Hearts Award winning Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Edwardsburg, MI.



*At 2006 Open Hearts Award winning Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Lake Villa, IL, the Inclusion in Worship Ministry team distributes assistive listening devices at all Sunday Masses.**



Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Wyoming, MI, a 2013 Open Hearts Award winning congregation, provides flexible, accessible seating areas in the front and back of the church so parishioners who use wheelchairs or walkers have a choice of where to sit with their families.



*Higher, padded arm chairs help worshippers who find it difficult to rise to stand from a regular height pew at 1998 Open Hearts Award winning Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church, Flossmoor, IL.**



St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, Aurora, IL, a 2009 Open Hearts Award winner, removed pews to create an accessible seating area for parishioners who use walkers and wheelchairs.



*An Inclusion Ministry at St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, Park, Ridge, IL, a 2003 Open Hearts Award winning parish, has worked with the pastor on access projects and including adults with developmental disabilities in a greeter and gift bearer ministry.**



*A sign language interpreter signs at Divine Liturgy at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago, IL, a 2003 Open Hearts Award winning congregation.**



*Mentors assist with including parishioners of all abilities in liturgical ministries at 2009 Open Hearts Award winning Old St. Mary's Catholic Church, Chicago, IL. **



*Altar server training for age appropriate servers with developmental disabilities accommodates individual needs and makes participation in this ministry available to all at 2008 Open Hearts Award winning Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Glenview, IL. **



*Exterior and interior automatic door openers assist worshippers who use wheelchairs and walkers as well as parents with strollers and maintenance staff at 1998 Open Hearts Award winning Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church, Flossmoor, IL.**



St. Patrick Catholic Church in Lexington, VA, a 2010 Open Hearts Award winning parish, uses a ramped entrance with a piazza for liturgical processions and social gatherings.



A canopied entrance with drop off area and an automatic door opener on exterior doors allows easy access for all at 2006 Open Hearts Award winning Temple Jeremiah, Northfield, IL.



A curb cut at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, New York, NY, a 2011 Open Hearts Award winning congregation, helps members who use wheelchairs and public transportation to have easy access to the church building from the street.



*Incarnation Catholic Church, Palos Heights, IL, a 2012 Open Hearts Award winning congregation, used their grant to purchase an automatic door opener for the church. The “Blessing for an Accessible Feature” available at www.teambelong.org was used by the pastor to bless the door opener on Inclusion Awareness Day.**



*Construction of a ramp from the church to the social hall makes social events accessible at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Des Plaines, IL, a 2009 and 2011 Open Hearts Award winning congregation.**



*The Church and social hall are accessible with an exterior ramp at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago, IL, a 2003 Open Hearts Award winning congregation.**



Accessible parking is a priority at St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, Aurora, IL, a 2009 Open Hearts Award winning church.



*The accessible washroom at 1998 Open Hearts Award winning Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Church, Flossmoor, IL, was designed by a member of the Inclusion Ministry who uses a wheelchair.**

** Indicates the congregation has a designated Inclusion Representative to work with the pastor to assure everyone can participate.*