

TEN WAYS TO WELCOME ALL ABILITIES IN THE AREA OF AFFIRMATION

1. Invite children, youth and adults with disabilities to participate in worship as cantors, ushers, musicians, alter servers, gift bearers, lectors, etc.
2. Ask the Parish Council to commission a That Every Ability May Belong Ministry to survey, train and transform the parish and school so that every ability belongs.
3. Educate the entire congregation about belonging by periodically running pieces in your bulletin about disability etiquette and intentionally offering hospitality to all. See our bulletin series
4. Train clergy, school and parish staff and ministry leaders to be role models in how to create belonging for people of all abilities and their families with handouts from TEAM Belong.
5. Interpret disability narratives in the Scriptures as healing stories for all. Reference biblical leaders with disabilities in homilies and sermons.
6. Place a “Belonging Box” in the worship space and school with paper and pencils for suggestions on how to make every ability belong.
7. Invite parishioners and students who happen to have disabilities to speak at worship services about what belonging to the parish and school means to them during *That Every Ability May Belong Month*.
8. Use the *Ministry Audit* to educate leaders about the importance of access and belonging so that parishioners and students with disabilities minister and learn alongside their peers as fellow missionary disciples.
9. Understand that previous negative experiences may cause individuals with disabilities to initially decline your invitation to participate. Don’t hesitate to extend additional invitations and ask what accommodations may be needed.
10. List accessible features and supports available in a permanent “For your comfort and convenience...” section of the bulletin or worship aide.