

ACCESS ISSUES DURING AND POST PANDEMIC

(A PARTIAL LIST OF CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES)

- 1. LIVE-STREAMING:** Live-streaming of Mass and other devotions has increased the number of people with disabilities able to connect to the Liturgical and devotional life of the church. Many have personally told me in our Disabilities Contact Zooms and some have emailed me. While masses and devotions are available on Catholic TV, having access to their parish community has been very important for those who are wheelchair users, people with MS, chronically ill, people with sensory integration issues and others with disabilities.

Important Considerations:

- A. Once the pandemic is over consider making **live-streaming** available for parishioners that have disabilities, chronically ill or caregivers. Some parishes are doing this.
- B. **Captions** – use a service or a platform that captions. Some video platforms will automatically caption after the live event is over. Consider getting tech assistance with this aspect from a parishioner with tech savvy. Pre-recorded parish videos should be captioned. How to caption:
<https://www.washington.edu/accessibility/videos/free-captioning/>
<https://www.techsmith.com/blog/add-captions-subtitles-video/>
<http://ncdae.org/resources/cheatsheets/youtube.php>

- 2. WEB PAGE ACCESS ISSUES:** There are aspects of web design that make web pages more accessible to people with disability and the elderly. Consider thinking of these aspects. Some simple easy to implement from the start is using alternate text for all photos so that people blind or partially sighted can have access to the pictures. There are many tools to assist with this. Be sure to let the web designer know this is important to your parish. A starters guide is at: www.usability.gov/what-and-why/accessibility.html , also at www.w3.org/standards/webdesign/accessibility and some simple suggestions at: <https://blog.simplecast.com/three-ways-podcast-accessibility/>

Important Considerations:

- A. **Functionality** should be accessible through mouse and keyboard and be tagged to worked with voice-control systems
- B. Provide **transcripts** for podcasts – learn more about this: <https://blog.simplecast.com/three-ways-podcast-accessibility/>
- C. If you have a video on your site, provide visual access to the audio information through **in-sync captioning**

- 3. CONGREGATE GATHERINGS:** When we gather again in groups, persons with disabilities or chronic conditions may be less likely to attend. Consider ways of continued outreach.

www.OPDarchphila.org The home page of the Office for Persons with Disabilities lists Archdiocesan and other spiritual and practical support resources for parishes and individuals with disabilities and their family members. To receive email or text updates from the office, please text *OPD* to 84576.

www.DeafCatholicPhilly.org The home page of the Deaf Apostolate provides the links to Our Daily Hope Vlog, live-streamed daily and Sunday Masses in American Sign Language and other resources to serve the Deaf Catholic Community during this time. To receive email or text updates from the Deaf Apostolate, please text *deafcatholic* to 84576.

More Resources for Tech Accessibility

Pod Casts: Using voice to text apps can assist in creating your text to post for podcasts.

- 8 best voice to text apps: <https://www.thebalancesmb.com/best-voice-to-text-apps-4583053>
- Best voice to text apps with free apps listed: <https://www.techradar.com/news/best-speech-to-text-app>
- 5 reasons you should have transcripts for your podcast:
<https://www.3playmedia.com/2019/10/09/5-reasons-why-you-should-transcribe-your-podcasts/>
- 5 examples of podcasts doing transcripts right:
<https://www.3playmedia.com/2017/08/24/5-podcasts-doing-transcripts-right/>

Live-Streaming and Pre-Recorded Video Captioning:

- 10 Free tools to make captioning easier: <https://blog.amara.org/2018/05/02/10-free-tools-to-make-your-captioning-process-easier-in-2018/>
- Review of paid on line captioning services: <https://www.g2.com/categories/closed-captioning-services>
- There are local real time caption companies in our area. Parish media experts may be able to assist with providing captions in a cost-efficient manner.
- ***Pre-recorded short videos used for promotion, faith formation or evangelization are not difficult to caption on most video platforms.***
 - Directions for YouTube: <https://www.washington.edu/accessibility/videos/youtube/>
 - Directions for Vimeo: <https://vimeo.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/224968828-Captions-and-subtitles>

iPhone or Android Video Captioning Apps:

- 5 speech recognition apps that auto- caption videos: www.techrepublic.com/article/5-speech-recognition-apps-that-auto-caption-videos/
- 5 Free tools for automatic captioning: <https://filmora.wondershare.com/video-editing-tips/best-automatic-subtitle-generators.html>

Web Accessibility:

- Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI): www.w3.org/standards/webdesign/accessibility
- Web Usability: www.usability.gov/what-and-why/accessibility.html
- 10 Aspects of Web Accessibility: <https://webaccess.berkeley.edu/resources/tips/web-accessibility>

Listen or Read: *Designing Our World: Accessibility in Tech*

<https://the1a.org/segments/designing-our-world-accessibility-in-tech/>

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