



Considering Accessibility

Within our communities one in five of our parishioners has a disability. Planning ahead to reach out and accommodate assures that those with disabilities are able to meaningfully participate in this process so that truly we are walking with the entire People of God.

1. Extending outreach and invitation accessibility tips:

- Invite individuals with disabilities, families with members with disabilities and group home residents
- Plan to meet in physically accessible spaces
- Be sure that virtual platforms have captioning enabled
- Invitations and RSVP include accessibility information (sample below)

Statement of Accessibility

[Parish Name] is committed to providing an accessible process for the Synod listening sessions that enables all to engage fully including individuals with disabilities. Please list accommodations needed when you register for a session. For more information about accessibility contact: [Name, # and email.]

Please list any accommodations needed: [Scroll down with options] (List only what you can plan to provide)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| ✓ ASL Interpreter | ✓ Assistive Listening Device | ✓ Adaptive material for an individual with ID |
| ✓ Program in Braille | ✓ Electronic copy in a word doc sent in advance | ✓ Other – please note |
| ✓ Large Print Program | | |
| ✓ Wheel Chair Access | | |

2. Providing welcome and hospitality accessibility tips

- Logistic coordinator assures that accommodations are in place
- Designate a team member to assist with facilitating access, inclusion and welcome
- Leave space for wheelchair users at the table and to navigate through out the space
- Speak directly to Deaf individuals and those with disabilities.

3. Facilitating a synodal session accessibility tips

- Adequate light and sound as well as the use of assistive listening devices helps those with hearing loss and low vision.
- Provide alternate format (large print) or adaptive format for those with intellectual disabilities or functional needs.

4. Summarizing feedback for submission

- Accurate syntheses that truly captures the range of perspectives of all responses, including views that are unique and seldom expressed.

Helpful Resources:

- **ASL Interpreting:** Deaf Apostolate, sr.kschipani@archphila.org, 215-587-3913
- **Braille Materials:** St. Lucy's School, llettiere@saintlucyschool.org, 610-352-4550; Xavier Society for the Blind, www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org, 800-637-9193
- **National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities Synod Resources:** <https://ncpd.org/synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission-synod-2021-2023>
- **Deaf Sessions:** Deacon William Griffin, deafcatholic@archphila.org or 267-538-0702 (VP)
- **Adapted Sessions:** Office for Persons with Disabilities, sr.kschipani@archphila.org or 215-587-3530