



National Apostolate for  
Inclusion Ministry

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*Promoting the Full Inclusion of People with Intellectual/Developmental  
Disabilities in the Life of the Catholic Church*

## About Individualizing Lesson Plans

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***Sacramental Preparation – Individualizing Lesson Plans*** by Mary Pat Carter with Marilyn E. Bishop consists of four booklets for each of the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation published in 1996 by the Center for Ministry with People with Disabilities, now under the umbrella of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives at the University of Dayton. The booklets provide strategies to be used to teach students with intellectual/developmental disabilities in the regular religious education classroom. Using learning style theory and real-life experience, the authors show teachers how to adapt a lesson plan to suit the needs of the individual student. The value of this approach is that the regular parish religious education program is the basis for educating all students. This can allow the student with special needs to be taught in either an inclusive classroom or in a separate situation.

The four booklets are a part of the *Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities*. This program was funded by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation.

With permission from the Institute for Pastoral Initiative, the National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry has prepared separate tip sheets based on these booklets as well as information on the sacraments and sacramental themes and learning styles. The information on individualizing lesson plans can be applied to the preparation for any inclusive religious education class.

### About the Authors

Mary Pat Carter is the former director of the Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators at the University of Dayton. Her background includes an MA in Special Education from Florida Atlantic University. Her experience incorporates both classroom and administration in a special education setting. Through her expertise, a local parish initiated and developed an inclusive religious education program. The techniques and strategies she suggests are based on sound pedagogical practices that will help catechists feel at ease with the diverse needs found in the classroom.

Marilyn E. Bishop was director of the Center for Ministry with People with Disabilities at the University of Dayton. She has an MA in Pastoral Ministry from the University of Dayton. Under her leadership many service programs and publications for ministry were produced. She was the project director and editor. She was also for many years, the editor of the NAPMR Quarterly Publication, a print predecessor to the NAFIM online journal.

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