



National Apostolate for
Inclusion Ministry

This Information Sheet is based on the article *Bringing the Good News to the Poor: Accessible Homilies*, NAFIM Messenger, September 2006 and *Preaching Notes on Persons with Special Disabilities*, USCCB Committee on the Liturgy News Letter, September 2006

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Promoting the Full Participation of People with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in the Life of the Catholic Church

Accessible Homilies

The homilist or preacher should view people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) as active receivers and responders to the proclamation of the Word and Homily.

Qualities of the Accessible Homilist or Preacher

A deep conviction of the spiritual equality and worth of his disabled hearers

A firm grounding in faith and frequent theological reflection to reach people who operate at a core and elemental level, emotionally, spiritually and psychologically

A firm belief in what he is saying in order to say what he believes to draw minds and hearts to God

A first name basis with each person with IDD in the parish and a general understanding of his or her employment and living situation such as with family or in a group home

Aspects of the Accessible Homily or Sermon

A simple image, concrete concept or symbol identified as the theme of the homily and repeated during the homily

A use of the theory of multiple intelligences (linguistic, musical logical/mathematical, spatial, bodily/kinesthetic, interpersonal and intra-personal) and of different learning styles to reach not just people with IDD, but all members of the congregation as well

A use of spatial displays, projected illustrations, music, song, gestures, sign language, questions and puzzlers, written tests, concrete objects, and moments of silence

An opportunity for interpersonal response after the Mass

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