



National Apostolate for
Inclusion Ministry

To Order SMC Materials Contact

St. Mary's Curriculum Website

www.autismreligiouseducation.net

Payment is through PayPal. Be sure to pay attention to the all details for ordering the various materials as there are differences for Macintosh and PC platforms. Note: After the materials are paid for, there will be a limited time (two days) to download them. Because the files are large, and depending on the materials ordered, download time can take between 15 minutes to over an hour. It is recommended that a wired internet connection be used. Backing up on CD-Rom is recommended. Materials are available on CD if download is not an option.

Envisioning a Catholic Church Where People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Are Welcomed for Their Gifts and Their Presence

St. Mary's Curriculum for Students with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities

Author: Cathy Boyle, Catechist and Parent

The St. Mary's Curriculum (SMC) is designed to meet the needs of students with autism and others for whom traditional religious education, even with accommodations, does not work. SMC began as a loose adaptation of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, and still has some parallels in its scope and sequence. SMC relies heavily on visuals and limited language together with much repetition and routine. There is also an emphasis on practical concerns of students such as: Who says what at Mass? When do I stand up? When do I sit down? The Boston Archdiocese has sponsored a number of training sessions for using SMC in parishes. SMC has been tested in a number of parishes in the Boston Archdiocese. There is no *Nihil Obstat* or *Imprimatur* at present.

Students Who Have Benefited from St. Mary's Curriculum

SMC has been used both in reverse-inclusion classrooms, segregated classrooms and home-school settings for students with little or no ability to function in regular class rooms. Most students in SMC programs are touched with autism, but there have been SMC students with Down syndrome, non-verbal Cerebral Palsy and mitochondrial disease.

Sacramental Preparation: Social Stories

Readiness for the First Communion and First Reconciliation will prompt the use of SMC Social Stories which are read on a schedule during the year the students will be receiving the Sacraments. Students also get frequent practice receiving unconsecrated hosts in order to prepare for the taste and texture. The Social Stories include: What do we do at Church? What is a Sacrament? What is Christmas? What is Reconciliation? What is Easter? What is the Eucharist? Where do people go when they die? Why do we pray?

St. Mary's Curriculum: Year One

The first year curriculum has twelve thematic classes: God loves me; God made everyone and everything; God made me like Him; God's people are a family that meets at church; I can talk to God; Mary listened to God and became the mother of Jesus; Jesus came to us on Christmas; Jesus is my friend and gift from God; I can be like Jesus—I can help and love and Jesus helps me; The Sign of

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the Cross; The church is God's house; A visit to church.

Other SMC Materials

The Mass Book is now available. SMC covers eight years of material and each year will be available for sale online in numerical order over the next couple of years. Year Two is now available, and covers types of prayer and the Our Father.