

# Welcoming One and All: Catechesis with Children/Youth With Developmental Disabilities

A Conversation with  
**Madonna Wojtaszek-Healey and Cindi Birse Swanson**



**St. Charles Pastoral Center, Romeoville  
June 25, 2008, 9 a.m. - 12 Noon**

Join us for a presentation and discussion with local experts Madonna Wojtaszek-Healey and Cindi Birse Swanson, both of whom have worked extensively with persons with disabilities. This will be an opportunity for catechetical leaders to learn how to welcome and assist children and youth with developmental disabilities, such as Autism, Aspergers, Deafness, Visual Impairment, Learning Disabilities, or Down Syndrome, and to discuss pastoral practice and practical issues.

Madonna Healy, former consultant for Special Needs for the Religious Education Office and currently a teacher at St. Mary Immaculate School in Plainfield, brings experience training teachers to work with those with disabilities. She is author of *The ABC's of A.D.D. for Catechists* and *The Day Matthew Changed*. Recently she presented a workshop on Aspergers Syndrome at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress.

Cindi Swanson is Director of Disabilities and Family Outreach at Holy Spirit Catholic Community in Naperville, and a committed advocate for inclusion of those with disabilities in every aspect of parish and public life. She works with The Arc of Illinois and the Illinois Life Span Project. Recently, she coordinated the Congregational Inclusion Workshop held in January at Holy Spirit.

Both presenters will be available to respond to specific questions from catechetical leaders.

Please let us know you plan to attend the event by emailing [mmaloney@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:mmaloney@dioceseofjoliet.org) or calling 815-727-6411. For more information, contact Joyce Donahue at the number above or [jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org).