

Called to Inclusion

As Catholic educators we are called to inclusion. This timeline outlines inclusion efforts promoted by the Church over the past six decades and outlines for us a call to action.



1965

Gravissimum Educationis promulgated by Pope Paul VI, "All children, in virtue of their dignity as human persons, have an inalienable right to education, adapted to their ability."

1978

NCCB issued a Pastoral Statement on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities calling "for a broader integration of persons with disabilities into the full life of the Church."

1982

Establishment of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability to implement the 1978 Pastoral Statement in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States.

1988

US Catholic Bishops reaffirm the 1978 Pastoral Statement "call to fully and actively participate in the sacramental life of the Church."

2004

Pope John Paul II – "...Integration must become an attitude and a culture..." Apostolic Letter for the 40th Anniversary of Spiritus et Spansa

1998

USCCB Publication – A Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities highlights "there can be no separate Church for persons with disabilities."

1995

Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments for Persons with Disabilities provides guidance on "providing fuller access to the sacraments."



2005

USCCB publication - National Directory of Catechesis as a Companion to the General Directory for Catechesis: "They [persons with disabilities] are not just the recipients of catechesis – they are also its agents" (par. 49).



2008

Pope Benedict XVI - "No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation." Pope Benedict's Address to Catholic Educators at CUA

2015

Pope Francis – "...I called for inclusive education which makes room for everyone and avoids elitism in selecting the beneficiaries of its commitment." Pope Francis' Address to the Association of Catholic School Parents in Italy

2017

Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching @ www.USCCB.org