

Center for Family Care Seeking 12 Pilot Parishes to Join Efforts on Behalf of All Children with Disabilities



ON BEHALF OF ALL

Apply to be a Pilot Parish now!
<https://tinyurl.com/FHOB OA>

OVERVIEW

The *On Behalf of All* project seeks to nurture the worship and prayer of young children ages 0 - 12 years with disabilities.

12 parishes across the nation will be supported to become models in accessible worship.

In turn, each of these parishes will then adopt and model their efforts and outcomes for a local, sister Orthodox parish by the end of the 5-year grant period.

The Center for Family Care’s “On Behalf of All: Toward an Accessible Divine Liturgy for Children with Disabilities” campaign has begun to choose twelve Orthodox Christian communities as Pilot Parishes which will create or enhance accessible worship ministry efforts for children with disabilities through a Nurturing Children through Worship and Prayer Grant Initiative awarded by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Nine of the twelve parishes will be chosen from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (one per Metropolis), and the remaining three spots will be open to parishes among other Orthodox jurisdictions. The On Behalf of All grant resources will provide educational parish-wide training/coaching, assessment tools, research, and resource development for initiating and optimizing accessible worship for children with disabilities ages birth to 12 years and their families.

Apply to be a Pilot Parish [here](#).

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FACTS

An estimated 20% of children in the U.S. have a disability.

If 2 of every 10 young people in Sunday Liturgy do not look like they have a disability, they may have invisible disabilities; additionally, there are likely seen and/or unseen barriers that are keeping families with special needs away.

ACCESSIBILITY

An accessible parish begins with the awareness and attitude of its leadership. Priests and parish leaders must be supportive of taking measures to make worship fully accessible for children and their families who have unique needs.

A SPECIAL CALL

A pilot parish liaison will be called upon as a dedicated, volunteer ministry leader who can advocate on behalf of families with disabilities to priests and parish councils.

Liaisons will commit to 2-4 hours of monthly training/collaboration and 2 multi-day training workshops (travel and expenses covered by the grant).

Assessment tools, training, parish-wide retreats, ongoing coaching, problem-solving, and resource creation will be provided by the *On Behalf of All* grant.

Families will be interviewed by an independent consultant to help identify needs and follow the progression of accessibility in their communities over the 5-year grant period.

Photo: GOARCH/Center for Family Care.

goarch.org