

Church should be place of acceptance for people with special needs

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People with disabilities don't want churches that just "welcome" them, but rather congregations that value them and include them in living a "full life of faith," a long-time advocate for special-needs ministry said.

Is God trying to send people a message through disasters?

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What is it about nature's fury that attracts theological interpretation? For many religious leaders, scholars say, it's an opportunity to win new believers.

Seminaries not preparing

pastors to minister to disabled, some assert

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An expert in the field of disability ministry says theological seminaries are doing little to prepare ministers to deal with the estimated one in five Americans living with some kind of disability.

Welcoming people with special needs can mean spiritual, numerical growth

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Churches that do a good job of including members with special needs like autism often reap side benefits of a positive witness to their community and sometimes even numerical growth, says an expert in disability ministries.

First person: Anybody can be a

friend

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Not everyone has the expertise or ability to do something significant about a problem as big as helping families deal with disabilities, but “anybody can be a friend.”

Author describes what having an autistic child taught her about God

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Kathleen Deyer Bolduc, a nationally recognized author and speaker in the field of disability ministry, said she was unprepared to parent a special-needs child before the birth of her third son.

Barriers of attitude block people with disabilities from

full inclusion in churches

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A longtime advocate for people with disabilities said the greatest barriers to including special-needs individuals in churches are not architectural or language but rather barriers of attitude.

For shy worshippers, church can be totally overwhelming

May 21, 2010

Recent studies reveal introverts make up roughly half of the population. And an introverted personality can sometimes clash with the prayer-and-share ethos in Christian churches.

Faith Digest: U.S. Catholics vexed at Vatican

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Nearly three-quarters of Catholics in the United States believe the Vatican tried to cover up clergy sex abuse, and a majority says [Pope Benedict XVI](#) has handled recent reports of past abuse poorly, according to a new poll,

but less than 10 percent have considered leaving the Catholic Church over the issue.

End of 'Lost' may prompt more questions than answers

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Is it a show about a modern-day shipwreck, featuring misfit castaways trying to survive increasingly bizarre circumstances on an island somewhere in the Pacific Ocean? Or is *Lost* really a show about faith, redemption, evil, predestination, love, suffering, free will and human understanding of the supernatural? Either way, when *Lost* ends its six-season run May 23, what will remain is the debate about the religious themes sprinkled throughout the hit series.

Researchers probe whether, why, free will exists

May 21, 2010

Are people really responsible for all the things they do? Do they have “free will” to choose between right and wrong? Those questions are at the heart of a four-year research project at Florida State University to determine

whether, and how, free will exists.

Biomedical ethics in a brave, new world

May 21, 2010

When a Texas pastor exhausted treatments available for his multiple sclerosis and began looking at other options, he excluded embryonic stem cell treatments. But then his condition worsened.