
SPRED MISSION STATEMENT

To form small communities of faith,

To welcome persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities,

To foster belonging in assemblies of worship.

This is accomplished through the dedication of parish volunteers.

Consider how you can help your parish be one that welcomes all and discover for yourself the gifts of volunteering in SPRED.

“We will not find the Lord unless we truly accept the marginalized. Truly the Gospel of the marginalized is where our credibility is at stake, is found and is revealed.”

**Pope Francis,
February 15, 2015**



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Andie Gunter
agunter@evdio.org
812-424-5536 ext. 228



SPRED

Special Religious Development

Communities of Faith
Welcoming Children and
Adults with Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities
Come join us.

WHAT IS SPRED?

SPRED is a parish-based ministry that provides faith formation and spiritual nourishment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages and function levels.

The goal of SPRED is to help children, teens and adults with disabilities develop an awareness of God in their lives; of themselves as people of dignity, created and loved by God; and of themselves as an integral part of the parish community and the entire Church.

This is accomplished through one-on-one partnerships within a small community of faith. The carefully designed and peaceful setting, the bonds of friendship, respectful attitudes, and the sharing of sacramental celebrations help each person discover the gifts and the needs of every person in the community.

God is discovered time and again in the midst of the life experiences of every person and in the gift of shared friendships.

“SPRED is a nourishing gift to me; an opportunity to deepen my own spiritual connections with other adult catechists and people with different abilities in a gentle, loving, supportive and totally embracing environment.”

SPRED Catechist



WHAT IS A SPRED COMMUNITY?

A small group of adult parish volunteers form a small community of faith where people enter into friendship and agree to welcome people with different abilities. The faith community agrees to follow the standards of the SPRED agency.

A SPRED community will welcome people with different abilities from one of the following age groupings:

Children: 6 to 10 years old

Adolescents: 11 to 16 years old

Young Adults: 17 to 21 years old

Adults: 22 years and older

WHO CAN VOLUNTEER?

Anyone who is 21 or older and is willing to share faith and friendship with others. No prior ministry experience is required. Training will be provided.

WHY JOIN SPRED?

Accompany people with different abilities on their faith journeys and help them to grow in their relationships with Jesus Christ.

Assist your parish community in fostering a sense of belonging among people with different abilities.

Honor the dignity of people with different abilities by offering them the gift of your friendship.

Adhere to the call to become a missionary disciple by sharing the Gospel message with some of the most marginalized and vulnerable members of your community.

Develop a stronger sense of community life by being part of a small community of faith.

Enhance and nourish your own spiritual life.

“The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open... Everyone can share in some way in the life of the Church; everyone can in some way be part of the community, nor should the doors of the sacraments be closed for simply any reason.”

**Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gadium*,
The Joy of the Gospel**