



## **Are people with developmental disabilities really educable in faith?**



This is a serious question that deserves a serious answer. Superficial observation may tempt the catechist to profound doubt. Research <sup>[1]</sup> and experience both admit that people with developmental disabilities are educable in faith, if faith is seen as experiential; as the experience of the sacred, the Church, a sense of Christ, sense of God.

SPRED provides a catechesis that develops a sense of the sacred, a sense of the Church, a sense of the Christ and a sense of God. The process used helps each one to enter into communion with Jesus Christ with the Christian community of faith. Sacramental initiation takes place according to the personal rhythm of each one.

Catechesis prepares us for liturgy and liturgy provides the experience of the core Mystery from which catechesis flows. SPRED catechesis leads to inclusion in the local Church experience of worship and provides an opportunity for persons with disabilities to witness faith among parish members. Spred facilitates the inclusion of persons with disabilities of all ages in our parishes not only as a sacramental program but also as a lifelong experience.

[1] Paulhus, Euchariste, L'Educabilite Religieuse des Deficients Mentaux, Emmanuel; Vitte, Lyons, France, 1962.