Dayton Area Access Mass to be Held November 19
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Dayton, Ohio, Oct. 31, 1989--A Dayton Area Access Mass will be held on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church, 2300 S. Smithville Road. People with disabilities from 11 Catholic churches in the Dayton area will be participating.

The Mass will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Pastoral Letter on Handicapped People, written in 1979 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to highlight the need for barrier-free access to churches. The letter also recognized the Baptismal right and responsibility for people with disabilities to be actively involved in their churches.

The Access Mass is a regular parish liturgy that seeks to heighten awareness of the needs of disabled people in churches and the gifts they have to share with the church community. The Rev. Robert Monnin, pastor of St. Christopher's Church in Vandalia, will be the chief presider at the Mass. People with disabilities will take an active role as servers, lectors, readers of the intercessions, gift bearers and Eucharistic ministers.

Five adults with mental retardation will mime Shel Silverstein's story of "The Giving Tree," and a group of students from the University of Dayton, "Hands in Harmony," will sign the songs during the service. The Mass will be interpreted for people who are deaf by Bonnie Vandenbos, a supervisor in UD's Roesch Library.

For more information about the Dayton Area Access Mass, contact Brother Ross Maguire at UD's Office for Ministry and Religious Education Services at (513) 229-4356.

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