

**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE  
CONVENTION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PROMOTED BY THE  
ITALIAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE**

*Paul VI Audience Hall*

11 June 2016

[Link](#)

**Prepared speech by the Holy Father:**

[...] Also decisive in this field is the involvement of families, who ask not only to be listened to, but inspired and encouraged. May our Christian communities be “houses” in which every form of suffering finds com-*passion*, in which every family with its burden of pain and toil may feel understood and respected in its dignity. As I observed in the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, the “dedication and concern shown to migrants and to persons with special needs alike is a sign of the Spirit. Both situations are paradigmatic: they serve as a test of our commitment to show mercy in welcoming others and to help the vulnerable to be fully a part of our communities” (n. 47).[...]