

NCPD E-NEWS OCTOBER 2009



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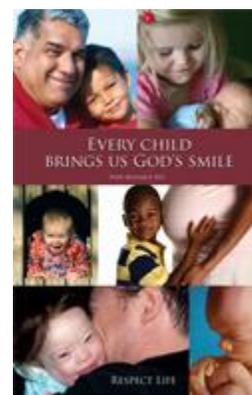
October: Respect Life Month

Bishop Murphy Addresses Health Care Reform

Bishop William Murphy, chairman of Domestic Justice and Human Development for the U.S. bishops, addresses the urgent need for health care reform that is available to everyone and protects the life and dignity of every person. [Bishop Murphy on YouTube.](#)

Respect Life Month Statement by Cardinal Justin Rigali

"Catholics across the United States will again celebrate Respect Life Month throughout October. Catholic parishes and organizations will sponsor hundreds of educational conferences, prayer services, and opportunities for public witness, as well as events to raise funds for programs assisting those in need. Such initiatives are integral to the Church's ongoing effort to help build a culture in which every human life *without exception* is respected and defended.



Education and advocacy during Respect Life

H1N1 Flu Resources

[Resources](#)

Free from OSV:
Teaching Catholic Kids

Public Television to air
documentary on disability
advocates.

Adaptive Clothing

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Other Events

Month address a broad range of moral and public policy issues. Among these, the care of persons with disabilities and those nearing the end of life is an enduring concern. Some medical ethicists wrongly promote ending the lives of patients with serious physical and mental disabilities by withdrawing their food and water, even though - or in some cases precisely because - they are *not* imminently dying..."

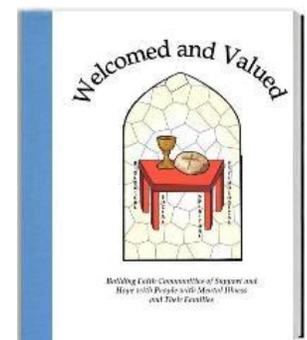
Cardinal Rigali speaks also about several important, current ethical issues that challenge us today and the Church teaching on these points: stem cell research, abortion, and the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). For the full text of Cardinal Rigali's Statement, made for Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 4, go to www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/08rigali-stmt.pdf or see all of the USCCB's Respect Life Program materials by [clicking here](#).

October 4-10, 2009 is Mental Illness Awareness Week

**Keeping the Momentum:
Mental Illness Awareness Week 2009
Building Community, Taking Action Oct. 4-
10;
Day of Prayer Oct. 6**

For more information on the Mental Illness Awareness Week [click here](#).

In 1990, the U.S. Congress established the first week of October as Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW). Since then, advocates for people with mental illness have organized a great variety of events to educate communities about mental illness. The NCPD Council on Mental Illness is pleased to release its newly developed resource manual, *Welcomed and Valued: Building Faith Communities of Support and Hope with People with Mental Illness and Their Families* to assist parishes in planning activities to commemorate Mental Health Awareness Month, Mental Illness Awareness Week and the Day of Prayer. The manual is available for free download on the NCPD website. [Click here](#) to download. Print copies can be purchased by [clicking here](#).



In addition, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has developed a host of resources to support local, state and national activities. These can be found on their website at www.nami.org. For more information on the Oct. 6 Day of Prayer visit www.nami.org/faithnet.

The NCPD Council on Mental Illness accomplished several goals in recent months that are culminating in October.

- In July, 2009 the NCPD Council on Mental Illness launched a Nationwide Initiative to train Catholic Clergy, Parish staff, and others in meeting the spiritual and pastoral needs of persons with mental illness.
- The pastoral resource manual, *Welcomed and Valued: Building Faith Communities of Support and Hope with People with Mental Illness and Their Families* has been published and is available in hard copy, CD and downloadable pdf. [Click here](#) to download. [Click here](#) to purchase printed version.
- The 27 minute open-captioned video, *Welcomed and Valued: Supporting People with Mental Illness in Parish Life* was premiered in July. It is available for purchase by [clicking here](#).
- Over 100 participants attended and each received a copy of both the DVD and the pastoral manual with accompanying CD. Three *Welcomed and Valued* awareness workshops were piloted in Washington, DC (7/11/09); Chicago, IL (7/21/09); and Portland, OR (7/24/09). Over 150 participants attended.
- An in-depth 3-day training at the Shrine of Our Lady of Snows in Belleville, IL on September 26-28 was held to train people from dioceses throughout the country to provide parish awareness training based on the components developed by the NCPD Council on Mental Illness. Twenty people participated in this training.
- Participants of the three-day training wrote Action Plans committing to a variety of steps to raise awareness and provide support in their locales. They also enthusiastically signed on as founding members of the National Catholic Network on Mental Illness, launched during the conference to facilitate communication, support and the sharing of experience, resources and ministry models.
- Pathways Summit: Immediately following the three-day training, NCPD's director and several Council members and training participants joined over 150 others from throughout the U.S. and Canada at a national Interfaith Summit sponsored by Pathways to Promise. The Summit provided the opportunity to announce the launch of the National Catholic Network on Mental Illness, to share ideas with leaders of other faiths working to build supportive communities of faith and to fight the stigma of mental illness.
- The summer '09 edition of National Pastoral Life Center's [CHURCH](#) magazine featured an article written by members of the NCPD Council on Mental Illness, Dr. Tom Welch and Dorothy Coughlin, on welcoming and valuing people with mental illness in faith communities.
- An NCPD webinar scheduled for October 20, 2009 addressing the pastoral issues of suicide will be moderated by Dr. Tom Welch and will feature Fr. Ron

Rolheiser and Claire Woodruff. Thanks to Dorothy Coughlin for providing technical support for the west coast team, broadcasting from Portland, OR.

- All newly developed resources are available through the NCPD website, www.ncpd.org.

NCPD News and Notes

NCPD Webinar: Access in Catholic Education for Students with Disabilities, Part I: Elementary Schools

Tuesday, October 13, 2009 3:00- 4:00 p.m. Eastern

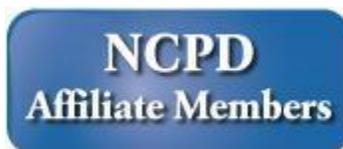


[Click here to register.](#)

[For downloadable PDF flyer click here.](#)

Responding to many requests from diocesan, parish and schools staff, families, parish advocates and others, we have included this webinar on the elementary level, and another on February 16, 2010 for the high school level, to feature advances that are in place and explore possibilities for progress in providing supports for students with disabilities in Catholic elementary and high schools.

Click the logo below to determine if your diocese is a NCPD Affiliate, allowing you to participate in NCPD Webinars free of charge.



NCPD Webinar: Access to Tools in Addressing Suicide: Pastoral Supports and Prevention Strategies

Tuesday, October 20, 2009 1:00- 2:30 p.m. Eastern



Click here to register.

For downloadable PDF flyer [click here.](#)

Join us on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, from 1-2:30 p.m. EDT for **Access to Tools in Addressing Suicide.**

The affects of suicide on parishioners and their family members from children and youth to the elderly are immeasurable. Pastoral and youth ministers, catechetical and family life ministers, family members--all involved--want to be aware of how to respond and to gain tools in addressing suicide.

In preparation for this upcoming webinar, go to www.ronrolheiser.com and click on [Writings on Suicide](#) to browse through the thoughts and reflections of featured presenter Fr. Rolheiser on this topic.

**Donate
to NCPD**

Did You Know?--that NCPD serves some 14 million Catholics with a disability, by supporting the work at the (arch) diocesan and parish level?

And that NCPD does this on a budget funded only from donations from affiliate member (arch) dioceses, grants and individual sponsors?

Help grow our ministry, and bless our work. Donate to NCPD now by clicking on the icon above.

Diocesan Director/ Organizational Partners News and Notes

Sr. Michelle Grgurich, Diocese of Pittsburgh will be presenting at a disability ministry conference, *Called to Welcome*, on October 19, 2009, that is co-sponsored by her diocese. If you will be in that area, it is a conference you won't want to miss! Check out ([this link](#)) to find a downloadable flyer.

Susan Perrault, NCPD Board Member and staff member, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Green Bay, WI, wanted to share the following with you. It couldn't be timelier. "Check out this link below. It contains highlights and a photo

from the very successful Learning Liturgy celebrated on Sunday night, Sept. 27, *Tell Me Again: Why DO Catholics DO That?* Not only did the 400 plus people in attendance learn more about the Catholic Mass -- they also learned ALOT about the Deaf Community. A thousand thanks to all Deaf Community members who participated and made this event VERY successful!!" [Teaching Mass-Deaf Community, Family & Friends](#)

"If the link does not take you directly to the newspaper story and photo. Visit www.thecompassnews.org and scroll down to the Catch The Fire of Your Faith article."

Year of the Priest Feature:

Ginny Duncan, Director, Office of Ministry with People with Disabilities, Diocese of Harrisburg gives us our Year of the Priest feature today. She brought to our attention a story about a priest from her diocese, Fr. Thomas Rozman, who is learning American Sign Language so he can better serve people who are deaf. The article she shared with us also mentions Father Michael Depcik from the Archdiocese of Chicago, who is deaf.

"The Harrisburg Diocese has a focus on including Catholics in worship and parish life, Father Rozman told [Catholic News Service](#). About two years ago the diocese established an Office for Ministry with People with Disabilities. Currently, most of the interpreters are laypeople. The priest said he was not aware of other priests in his area learning sign language.

In Harrisburg in June, Father Michael Depcik, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales who is himself deaf and ministers to deaf Catholics in the Archdiocese of Chicago, celebrated Mass for the deaf and hearing communities at St. Patrick Cathedral.



The special Mass further inspired Father Rozman to continue his own efforts to communicate better with Catholics who are deaf. He said he learned 96 percent of Catholics who are deaf have never been to Mass -- a statistic that both saddened him and encouraged him to create change."

Click here to read the entire story: [Catholic News Service story](#).

(Fr. Mike signs Mass and Fr. Thomas gives verbal interpretation.) (Photo taken and provided by Emily Albert, Catholic Witness, Diocese of Harrisburg. Permission for NCPD to use in the E-News, granted)

Fr. Depcik has become a well known minister, advocate and presenter as he serves in the Archdiocese of Chicago and well beyond. Fr. Mike hosts a website called Fr. Mike's Kitchen Table Website, www.frmd.org, that provides resources in American Sign Language (ASL). Go to [YouTube - About Fr. MD's Website](#) where Fr. Mike

tells about his background and the purpose of his website. His website is unusual in that all of the "articles" are presented in sign language. He provides links to other sites, homilies for Sunday Masses, interviews, religious instruction, inspiration, Q & A, and much more...all in ASL.

In a June 27, 2009 article from the Harrisburg Patriot News, a description of Fr. Mike in action, leading a sign-language retreat in Harrisburg for people who are deaf, is related. The young, 39 year old priest, is described as being one of only 6 deaf priests in the U.S. The mass announced in the article became a powerful inspiration for Fr. Thomas Rozman the day he attended. Read more about that day by clicking [Deaf Priest Leads Sign Language Retreat](#).

Marsha Rivas, Diocese of Toledo, Director of Equal Access Ministry

INCLUSION TIP Marsha features parish support for people with mental illness in her Inclusion Tip for October. [Click here](#) to read about a roadmap to support people with mental illnesses in your parish that she summarizes and recommends. In the article she mentions a webinar that NCPD produced in October, 2007. You can still see it in "replay" by going to <http://www.ncpd.org/Webinars/2007-10-10>. It will take you to that webinar's home page. Scroll down the page for information about the production. Near the bottom, you will find links for free replay and resources that are available for download and use from the NCPD Council on Mental Illness. There are also other webinar links related to this topic, as well as the link for NCPD's Council on Mental Illness web page.

Deacon Don Grossnickle, STAUROS, USA

Don't Miss the one-day STAUROS Conference, *Addressing the Stigma of Suicide*, Saturday, October 17th, 2009, in River Forest, IL ([Click Here for Details](#)). CEU's are available.

Legislation/Advocacy Issues

Free H1N1 Flu Resources for your ministry: Concerns by credible sources about the possible impact of the H1N1 Flu necessitates our care and attention, as people who convene children and youth, one of the most vulnerable populations of this virus. Your diocese or parish has information that you will want to be aware of and follow. There are simple, common sense remedies that can be applied such as hand washing and asking catechists and children to stay home if they are not feeling well, especially if they have a fever. Below are some links from the U.S. Government where you will find helpful and free resources to support your awareness.

H1N1 Flu: A Guide for Community and Faith-based Organizations

(30 pages, free download)

<http://www.flu.gov/professional/community/cfboguidance.html>.

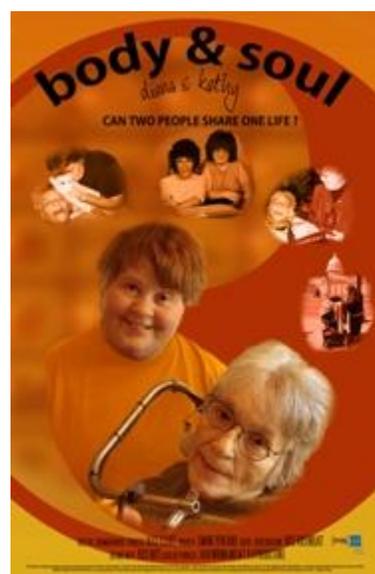
You can check this link: [widespread influenza activity](#) to see if your location is

affected. Other free print resources from the U.S. Government can be downloaded at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/print.htm>.

Resources

Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) has free resources on the internet that you might find helpful, with or without adaptation. Visit [Teaching Catholic Kids](#) for free downloads, support and information for parents, teachers, catechists and anyone who wants to help kids gain a sense of their Catholic identity.

Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy, a documentary about two remarkable advocates for people with disabilities, will have its television premiere on public television this October and November across the country. It is directed by Academy Award nominee Alice Elliott. Click here for [screening and](#)



[broadcast dates.](#)



Adaptive Clothing If you would like to pass on information to a friend (male or female) who uses a wheelchair and prefers clothing designed to accommodate special needs that they might have, check out this link <http://www.izzycamilleri.com> and go to IZ ADAPTIVE CLOTHING. The men's line will be available at the end of October.

NAMI FaithNet Newsletter: October 2009

In this issue: Reaching Multicultural Faith Communities during Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW) Oct. 4-10, National Day of Prayer Oct. 6, National Depression Screening Day Oct. 8, A Doctor for Disease, a Shaman for the Soul, A Hell of Mercy: A Meditation on Depression and the Dark Night of the Soul by Tim Farrington (Harper One, 2009). [Click here.](#)

Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 4 -Saturday, October 10, 2009

Keeping the Momentum: Mental Illness Awareness Week 2009

Building Community, Taking Action

For resources and information to use if your parish or diocese is featuring this topic on a Sunday other than Respect Life Sunday. [Click here](#) or www.nami.org.

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 Day of Prayer for Mental Illness

For resources and information [click here](#) or go to www.nami.org/faithnet .

Sunday-Monday, October 11-12, 2009

Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators (NICE) Conference

Mercy Retreat Center

Burlingame, CA

For more information contact:

Beth Foraker bforaker2002@yahoo.com

Website: www.niceconference2009.com

Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 3:00-4:00 p.m. EDT

NCPD Webinar

Access in Catholic Education, Part I: Elementary Schools

In partnership with the:

USCCB Secretariat on Catholic Education and

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL)

Marie Powell, Moderator

Sally Todd and Eileen Grams, Presenters

[Click here](#) for a flyer and registration

(Part II: High Schools coming Feb. 16, 2010)

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009

STAUROS, USA

Addressing the Stigma of Suicide

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

River Forest, IL

\$75 plus lunch

CEU's available for additional charge.

[\(Click Here for Details\)](#)

Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 1:00-2:30 p.m. EDT

NCPD Webinar: *Access to Tools in Addressing Suicide:*

Pastoral Supports and Prevention Strategies

In partnership with the:

NCPD Council on Mental Illness

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL)

National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers (NFCYM)

Fr. Ron Rolheiser and Claire Woodruff, Presenters

Dr. Tom Welch, Moderator/presenter/interviewer

[Click here](#) for a flyer and registration.

Tuesday, December 1 - Thursday December 10, 2009

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - Xavier Society for the Blind

Fr. John Sheehan will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, designed specifically for people who are blind or visually impaired. For more details, contact the Xavier Society by Email at Xaviersocietyfortheblind@Yahoo.com or call (212) 473-7800.

Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 3-4:00 p.m. EDT

NCPD Webinar: *Access in Catholic Education Part II: High Schools*

In partnership with the:

USCCB Secretariat on Catholic Education and

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL)

Marie Powell, Moderator

Dr. Karen Tichy and Doreen C. Engel, MA, Presenters

[Click here](#) for a flyer and registration.

Tuesday, August 17, 2010 - Saturday, August 28, 2010

STAUROS *Access to the Land of the Bible*

Holy Land Pilgrimage for people with physical disabilities, especially those actively engaged in parish Bible Study or ministry who wish to deepen their understanding of the Bible. Open to spouses, family members, friends, or to any persons who wish to serve as personal care attendants. [Click here](#) for more information.

Our Mission:

Rooted in Gospel values that affirm the dignity of every person, the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) works collaboratively to ensure meaningful participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of the life of the Church and society.

Visit our Website: www.ncpd.org

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Our goal with NCPD E-NEWS is to be brief, timely, and relevant. We trust that you'll look forward to these postings, read them, and pass them on. We count on your feedback. NCPD Director of Programs, Dr. Nancy Thompson, edits NCPD E-NEWS. Please submit items for consideration to her at nthompson@ncpd.org using the phrase "E-NEWS Submission" or "E-News Response" in the subject line.

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