

**NCPD  
E-NEWS  
DECEMBER  
2009**



<http://www.ncpd.org/>

Archived E-News:

<http://www.ncpd.org/views-news-policy/news/ene ws>



## Greetings of this Holy Season!

The NCPD staff would like to wish you a holy Advent, a very merry Christmas Season and a blessed New Year. It has been a tremendous gift for us to witness and be a part of so many efforts with and on behalf of Catholics with disabilities across the country this year.

It is impossible to adequately express what a pleasure it has been to meet and work with so many of you. We are honored to be able to offer supports to you and we commend you for all that you do in your ministries. To those who have served so selflessly on an NCPD council, board, committee, film crew, webinar team, or acted as a host for a meeting or gathering, we are deeply appreciative.

Please know that the prayers of Jan, Nancy, Peg, Bob, Yan, Barb and our volunteers will be with you throughout these holy seasons and 2010. Blessings to you in all.

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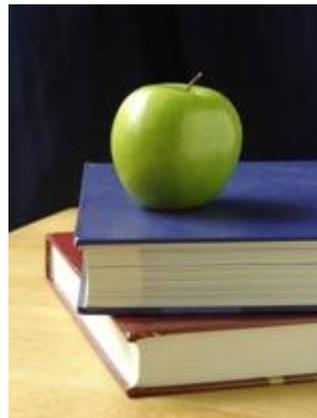
*Voices of Faith*

People of Faith

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## NCPD News and Notes

### February 16, 2010 Webinar: Access in Catholic Education, Part II: High Schools



Catholic schools more perfectly reflect the single flock envisioned by Jesus, our Shepherd, when they welcome and integrate students with disabilities into the total life of the school. In this NCPD webinar, **Access in Catholic Education, Part II: High Schools** on February 16, 2010, Catholic educators with significant experience at both the school and diocesan levels will share strategies and resources that enable Catholic schools to become successful, inclusive communities.

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To register, [click here](#). For downloadable PDF flyer, [click here](#). For more information visit the NCPD webinar page at <http://www.ncpd.org/webinars>.

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## Invitation to the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering and the Diversity Outreach Initiative

NCPD is pleased to be a co-sponsor of the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG), held each February in Washington, DC. (Visit [www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org](http://www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org) for details on the 2010 meeting.) Our participation affords an opportunity to provide a disability perspective to the social justice issues being addressed at the gathering.



**We invite you to help NCPD staff represent disability concerns at this gathering in one of two ways:**

- Attend the 2010 CSMG on February 7-10  
AND/OR
  - Encourage a person with a disability from your diocese to participate as part of the Diversity Outreach Initiative described on our website. [Click here](#) to read more.
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## Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting

On Thursday, November 19, nineteen pastoral ministers involved in ministry with people with disabilities representing eleven dioceses and three national offices (NCPD, the National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry and the National Catholic Office for the Deaf) met at the John Paul II Retreat Center in Vineland, NJ for the annual NCPD Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting.

It was a fruitful time of discussing a wide range of topics, including support for wounded warriors, parish advocate programs, language, and reports from the national offices. Several attendees stayed on for a half-day retreat, and liturgy celebrated by Fr. Brian O'Neill. Special thanks to Sr. Bonnie McMenamini of Camden and Anne Masters of Newark for organizing the meeting and retreat. If you are interested in sponsoring a regional meeting in your area in 2010, please contact Janice Benton at [jbenton@ncpd.org](mailto:jbenton@ncpd.org).

## Voices of Faith Series Launched

Tell us a disability story about yourself or someone you know ... stories of how faith and involvement in the Church has been a part of realizing hopes and dreams. Or share stories of how someone made a positive difference in your faith life or in the faith life of someone you love who lives with disability.

Stem Cell Research  
Website

[Calendar of Events](#)

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# Voices of Faith

We'll post the stories weekly on [the NCPD homepage](#), as part of the NCPD *Voices of Faith* series.

If you would like to submit a story, [click here](#).

## People of Faith

**Take a moment** to think of one Catholic with a disability, and to ask, *what would their life be without their faith?*

**Access to Faith...** is NCPD's mission, carried out through the trainings and resources we provide to parish and diocesan staff across the country.

**NCPD relies on freewill support** from affiliate diocesan members....**and donors like you.** Your help is needed now more than ever.

**Bless NCPD this Advent**, as we try to bring the light of Christ into the lives of Catholics with disabilities, their families, parishes and dioceses.

**Donate**  
to NCPD

**Please take a moment** to support NCPD.

## NCPD Council on Mental Illness Launches ...

### **MI Network News**

*The Monthly Newsletter of the National Catholic Network on Mental Illness*

Last month, the NCPD Council on Mental Illness launched their first issue of the *MI Network News*, a monthly newsletter of the National Catholic Network on Mental Illness designed to share ideas and resources among individuals working to provide supportive faith communities for individuals with mental illness and their families.

The newsletter can be accessed in two ways: 1) sign up to receive it via e-mail on the third Tuesday of each month ([click here](#)) or 2) view it on the NCPD website under the section on Views/News/Policy ([click here](#)).

## Diocesan/Partner News and Notes

### Inclusion Tip

Here is another great tip from Marsha Rivas and the Diocese of Toledo: a timely piece on "Happy Kids for Christmas"! ([click here](#) to download pdf) To learn more about disability ministry in Toledo visit [Equal Access Ministry](#) webpage.

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### Wishing blessings to Sr. Michelle

Sr. Michelle Grgurich, SCN, who worked with Grace Harding in the Diocese of Pittsburgh Department for Persons with Disabilities for many years, and took over as Director upon Grace's retirement, has recently left the Diocese in order to work with her religious community. Sr. Michelle will serve as the Director of Congregational Ministries, and will live in Kentucky. While we will miss her skills, creativity, and commitment to addressing the needs of Catholics with disabilities and their families, we wish Sr. Michelle abundant blessings in her new ministry.

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### NCEA Special Needs Conference

The National Catholic Educational Association will be hosting a special needs conference from January 17-19, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove, CA. For information on the sessions, registration fees and hotel, visit

[http://www.ncea.org/UserFiles/File/Elem2010\\_NCEA\\_Special\\_Needs\\_Conference.pdf](http://www.ncea.org/UserFiles/File/Elem2010_NCEA_Special_Needs_Conference.pdf).

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### Religious Sign Interpreters Workshop

Save the date, **March 6, 2010**, for a Religious Sign Workshop sponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Camden. The main presenter will be Amy June Rowley-Mosher, currently the Coordinator of the American Sign Language Program at California State University, East Bay. Amy is also a member of the National Religious Sign Project of the National Catholic Office for the Deaf. Amy will focus on the prayers of the Catholic Mass and share with us the findings of the National Religious Sign Project. This will be an all day workshop with **RIT Ceu's** available. Interpreters and Deaf leaders of prayer are welcome to attend. The workshop will be held at the **Church of the Holy Saviour Auditorium, 50 Emerald Avenue in Westmont, NJ**. Flyers and details will be posted on the Diocese of Philadelphia web and sent out shortly from Sr. Kathleen Schipani. Email [rschipa@adphila.org](mailto:rschipa@adphila.org) if you are interested and not already on her mailing list.

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### Year for Priests: Fr. Wayne Ball's Story

This month features Fr. Wayne Ball, a long-time friend of NCPD, who was ordained for the Diocese of Richmond twenty years ago after studying at Theological College, where NCPD is housed. During his seminary studies, Fr. Ball became a faithful volunteer to NCPD, and spoke at several NCPD-sponsored gatherings and conferences. Below is part of his story.

"I was born in Danville Virginia in 1960, to a girl who had just finished the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, as the "non-identifying information" available to me reports. As an adopted child, I spent a good portion of my life asking one question: "If I had been normal, would my mother have kept me?" It was only later in life I came to understand that her giving me up for adoption was both a great act of love, and divine providence.

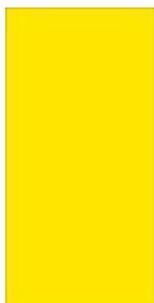
I passed through several foster homes, until I arrived at the home of John and Marcia Ball. I was born with Cerebral Palsy (CP), a condition that was poorly understood in the early 1960s. The original plan seems to have been that I would spend some time in foster care and then, as was still common in those days, be institutionalized. All of the experts consulted had concluded two things:... ([Click here](#) to read more)



Fr. Ball with NCPD Executive Director

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### **Vatican Sponsors International Conference, *The Deaf Person in the Life of the Church*, from Nov. 19-21**



Over four hundred people, including nearly one hundred deaf individuals, from nations throughout the world participated in a first-ever Vatican conference focusing on the gifts and needs of Deaf Catholics. The conference was sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care, with planning input from the International Catholic Foundation for the Service of Deaf Persons (ICF). Visit [www.icfdeafservice.org](http://www.icfdeafservice.org) for reports and photographs of this historic gathering.

## **Legislation/Federal Government News and Notes**

### **Health Care Reform**

Visit the following sites for information on the health care reform proposals from a Catholic perspective:

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [www.usccb.org/healthcare/](http://www.usccb.org/healthcare/)

National Catholic Bioethics Center [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org)

Catholic Charities USA [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org)

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### **Access Board Vacancy**

The U.S. Access Board is searching for a Director for the Office of Technical and Information Services. The closing date for applications is January 5, 2010. For more information, visit <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=84335446>.

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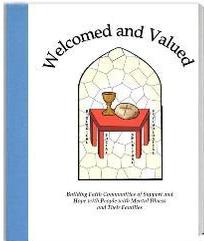
## H1N1 Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control have available for free download a brochure entitled *H1N1 Flu & You*. To obtain helpful tips on prevention and identifying warning signs in children and adults, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/2009-10/pdf/h1n1andyou.pdf>.

## Resources

NCPD has resources available for sale and for free viewing or downloading from its website.

### NCPD Mental Illness Resources



The NCPD *Welcomed and Valued* DVD and Resource Manual are available for purchase by [clicking here](#). The DVD features in-depth looks at people with mental illness and how they participate in parish life. (27-minute open-captioned DVD. Discussion guide included.)



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### NCPD Webinar Resources

To view the resources available from each webinar, [click here](#) to be taken to the webinar home page and select the webinar you are interested in. The resources are listed at the bottom of each webinar page. Archived versions of the webinars can be viewed, and transcripts are provided.

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### USCCB Resources for Advent/Christmas Includes Printable Family Activity Calendar

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has created a website with suggestions for daily prayer, reading, reflection and action throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Visit [www.usccb.org/advent/](http://www.usccb.org/advent/) to enrich your participation in these holy seasons.

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### Stem Cell Research Website

A new website created by the Family Research Council and SaintMax Worldwide provides information about the potentials and successes of adult stem cell therapies. The site includes three videos of people who have been cured or helped by adult stem cells. To learn more, visit [www.stemcellresearchfacts.org](http://www.stemcellresearchfacts.org).

# Calendar of Events

**Friday, January 15 - Tuesday, January 19, 2010**

**NCOD Pastoral Week, "Call of the Spirit"**

Houston, TX.

Visit <http://www.ncod.org/PastoralWeek2008.asp> for more details.

**Sunday, January 17 - Tuesday, January 19, 2010**

**NCEA Special Needs Conference**

At the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove, CA.

For information on the sessions, registration fees and hotel, visit

[http://www.ncea.org/UserFiles/File/Elem/2010\\_NCEA\\_Special\\_Needs\\_Conference.pdf](http://www.ncea.org/UserFiles/File/Elem/2010_NCEA_Special_Needs_Conference.pdf)

**Sunday, February 7 - Wednesday, February 10, 2010**

**Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG)**

Washington, DC

See the article above for details on this conference and the Diversity Outreach Initiative. To register, visit [www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org](http://www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org). Register by December 15 to take advantage of the early registration discount!

**Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 3:00-4:00 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.

**Saturday, March 6, 2010**

**Religious Sign Interpreters Workshop**

Westmont, NJ

Email Sr. Kathleen Schipani from the Diocese of Philadelphia, [srschipa@adphila.org](mailto:srschipa@adphila.org) if you are interested and not already on her mailing list.

**Wednesday, June 30 - Saturday, July 3, 2010**

**2010 NAMI National Convention**

Washington, DC

For schedule and registration information on the annual convention of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, [click here](#).

**Sunday, July 25 - Friday, July 30, 2010**

**Holley Family Village's Catholic Family Week**

Brooklyn, Michigan

This program focuses on Catholic families with persons who are deaf who want to deepen their faith as a FAMILY while having a good time at beautiful De Sales Center.

Cost: \$400 to \$700 depending on the size of family.

Scholarships available for families who need financial assistance.

We will accept 12 families. If interested, please mark the dates in your calendar book!

Brochures for Catholic Family Week will be available in January 2010.

Please contact Fr. Mike Depcik at [Depcik@desales.org](mailto:Depcik@desales.org) if you have questions.



**Sunday August 1 - Friday August 6, 2010**  
**Holley Family Village's Deaf Catholic Youth Week**

Brooklyn, Michigan

This program focuses on deaf teens aged 13 - 18 who want to deepen their Catholic faith while having a good time at beautiful De Sales Center. Non-Catholic teens are welcome as long as they are willing to participate in our religious services.

Cost: \$200 or \$250 (to be determined)

Scholarships available for individuals who need financial assistance.

We will accept 20 teens.

Brochures for Deaf Catholic Youth Week and other programs will be available in January 2010.

Please contact Fr. Mike Depcik at [Depcik@desales.org](mailto:Depcik@desales.org) if you have questions.

**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](http://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](mailto:nthompson@ncpd.org) using the phrase "E-NEWS Submission" or "E-NEWS Response" in the subject line.

