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Healthcare Reform - Your Urgent Action is Needed

Health care reform legislation continues to be an item of critical importance for persons with disability and those that minister with them. As the House and Senate bills move toward conference to adopt a single bill, the voice of those who advocate for the protection of life, and particularly people with disabilities and children who are yet to be born, remains one that is of particular importance. In order that the perspective of people with disabilities is heard, we include the following message and materials from the USCCB. Please take a moment to read and act upon their request.



Dear colleagues,

As you are aware, the House and Senate have begun discussing how to meld their respective health care reform bills into a final bill. The bishops continue to advocate that the following moral criteria are met in the final bill: 1) maintain current conscience protections and prohibition on federal funding for abortions and abortion coverage; 2) provide adequate and affordable coverage for all people, especially the poor and vulnerable; and 3) protect access to coverage and health care for immigrants .

The expectation is that the negotiations will continue through January with the goal of having a bill signed into law before the State of the Union address (date to be determined).

It is important to share the attached materials **as soon as possible**. The negotiations are happening now and the leadership needs to hear from their constituents to urge support for the following:

1. maintain the prohibition on federal funding for abortion;
2. include adequate and necessary conscience protections;
3. incorporate the best affordability provisions from each bill;
4. protect immigrants by allowing them to buy insurance with their own

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money and for legal immigrants to have access to Medicaid regardless of date of entry.

As soon as leadership reaches an agreement, there will be floor votes (there won't be much time to get materials out at the point).

Therefore, please share the attached materials and resources with parishes, your networks and colleagues as soon as possible. It is imperative that everyone call their Senators and Representatives to ask them to assure that the final bill meets our moral criteria. For the latest information, please visit www.usccb.org/healthcare.

Thank you in advance for your hard work and advocacy in protecting the life and dignity of all people.

More information is available at www.usccb.org/healthcare.

The attachments referenced in the request are available by [clicking here](#). They include a Spanish version and bulletin announcements and prayer petitions. The flyer pictured above is also available for download by clicking on it.

[Prayer for Protection of Unborn Children and Conscience Rights in Health Care Reform Legislation](#)

O God our Father, we praise you for the work of your hands and for the precious gift of life. Grant your protection to those who are yet unborn. Inspire those who govern us to advance policies which protect the unborn child in the womb and preserve the conscience rights of all.

Jesus, Divine Healer, may our legislators find the courage to advance needed health care reform that protects the conscience rights of health care providers and does not promote or fund abortion.

Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of elected officials with the desire to save lives, not destroy them.

Father, we ask this in Jesus' name, through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

NCPD News and Notes

2010 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

Charity in Truth: Seeking the Common Good

NCPD is pleased to be a co-sponsor of the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG), held each February in Washington, DC. [Click here](#) 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 national gathering.

NCPD 2010 Calendar Available for Free Download

NCPD has once again prepared a calendar outlining its webinar series and other activities. Click on the calendar for a free downloadable version of NCPD's 2010 calendar.



NCPD Webinar on Catholic Education



NCPD's February 16 webinar, Part 2 in a series on Catholic Education, will focus on High Schools. [Click here](#) for information on the webinar content and speakers, and to register.

An important aspect of a successful high school program to be addressed in this webinar is consideration of the student's transition from high school to post-secondary options. Information on government programs relating to transitioning is provided in the following sections of this E-News: [Legislation/Federal Government](#) and [Resources](#).

National Catholic Network on Mental Illness - Sign Up Now



In September, 2009, the NCPD Council on Mental Illness launched the National Catholic Network on Mental Illness (Network) to facilitate communication and sharing of resources and ideas from people interested in this ministry from throughout the US and the world. A free monthly electronic newsletter, *MI NETWORK NEWS*, is provided to Network members. [Click here](#) to sign up for the Network-- membership is free. To view previous issues click on the logo.

NCPD Needs Your Support

NCPD relies on **freewill support** from affiliate diocesan members....**and donors like you.** Your help is needed now more than ever to enable NCPD to carry out its many planned initiatives for 2010.

Please help support NCPD in this New Year through a one-time donation or monthly pledge. You can make a great difference in enabling Catholics with disabilities to be nourished in their faith and be contributing members of their parish communities.

Donate
to NCPD

Please act today to help sustain the important ministry of NCPD.

Diocesan/Partner News and Notes

Inclusion Tip

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

Stauros U.S.A.

Stauros U.S.A. is a non-profit organization committed to helping people find meaning, hope and peace in the midst of suffering. They offer a blog, prayer intentions, monthly reflections, and newsletter archive on their website at www.stauros.org. To view archived versions of their E-Zine newsletter, Seeds of Light or to sign up to receive it, [click here](#).



Stauros U.S.A. will be sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Holy Land this August. Visit <http://www.stauros.org/nexttrip.html> for further information. Limited scholarship assistance is available.

Pathways to Promise Conference Downloads

Presentations from the national summit, [Companions on the Road to Recovery from Mental Illness: Pathways for the 21st Century](#), held in October of 2009 in Belleville, IL, are now available on-line as free downloads. The conference agenda is posted on <http://www.pathways2promise.org/> with embedded links to some 20 of the presentations from the conference.

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, [click here](#).

American Association of People with Disabilities provides news service.

We wanted to inform you of a valuable resource of information for disability news.

Justice For All (JFA) Email is a free service of AAPD that shares disability news (legislation and policy, popular culture, etc.) and issues calls to action to advocates across the country in the form of an email newsletter that typically comes out twice weekly. AAPD's JFA Email exists to defend and advance disability rights and is central to AAPD's mission of organizing the disability community to be a powerful force for change - politically, economically, and socially. For more information or to sign up to receive their emails [click here](#).



Year for Priests



National Vocation Awareness Week is January 10-16.

In this Year for Priests several initiatives promoting vocations are identified at <http://www.usccb.org/yearforpriests>. But it is good to recall that "vocations are everyone's business." The primary formation of priestly vocations occurs in the family. Being part of the body of Christ we recognize that all are not called to the same functions within the body, but as members of one body our roles should support each other.

For information on the icon, please [click here](#).

Many men and women with disabilities have responded to God's call to serve as priests or religious. During this **Year for Priests** NCPD is highlighting many of their stories. Thanks to Ann Sherzer, Director of Ministry with Persons with Disabilities for the Diocese of Kalamazoo MI, for the following article on St. Jean Vianney and the priest (M. Bailey) who guided him in his vocation.

Everyone Needs an Advocate

On August 4, the Church celebrates the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests. John Vianney was known as a wise and compassionate pastor and confessor. People would travel great distances to Ars, France to hear him preach and receive his counsel.

John Vianney heard the call to priesthood early in life but his father would not allow him to leave the family's poor farm until he was 19. In preparation for seminary he studied with M. Bailey, the pastor or Cure of Ecully.

For 10 years, John struggled with academic work. M. Bailey was his advocate and surest source of encouragement. When asked to leave the seminary because of poor grades, M. Bailey took John in for more tutoring. At the end of the year this good man convinced the seminary Rector to let John take his exams with the rest of the class. When he failed these tests, M. Bailey convinced the Rector to examine him orally in French rather than the usual Latin. When finally ordained, John, who was to become a famous confessor, was not given faculties to hear confessions until some months later when he finally passed his course in moral theology. No doubt he was once again coached by the faithful M. Bailey.

August 4 is the feast of St. John Vianney but what about M. Bailey? Perhaps each time someone recognizes the gifts of another and advocates for the full use of those gifts we should remember M. Bailey. Certainly it would have been easier for him to tell his slow student "It's too hard you'll never make it, return to the farm."

Legislation/Federal Government News and Notes



Don't Cut Support for People with Disabilities

Advocacy for people with disabilities includes letting our state and federal legislators know that funding for people with disabilities is a critical lifeline for many. Please let them know your opinion on this as budgets are being drawn up, and specific bills are being considered. Besides the health care reform that is spoken to in the feature article above, there is also legislation pending on the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). This measure passed the House of Representatives with a \$1 billion investment package and will likely be voted on in the Senate in early January. Also at stake are potential cuts to mental health services which are aided by the federal Medicaid match rate. Please [click here](#) to read more about it on NAMI's web page. You can easily contact your Senator through this link ([click here](#)), or your state governor through this one, ([click here](#)).

Disability.gov

We thought we would highlight a governmental website this month that has valuable resources for the disability community. Disability.gov (<http://www.disability.gov/>) provides "easy access to comprehensive disability-related information and resources." A list of their topics includes: Benefits, Civil Rights, Community Life, Education, Emergency Preparedness, Employment, Health, Housing, and Technology.

An area that we would like to highlight this month is "Transition services for youth, as it corresponds to our upcoming webinar on *Access in Catholic Education for Students with Disabilities: Part II, High Schools*. Regarding this topic the web site states, "Transition is a process of planning to help youth develop life skills and have real life experiences so they can become successful, contributing members of society. Transition planning relates not only to post high school goals, but includes the many years of planning and working toward meaningful goals including employment. There are many government agencies and organizations that can help young people plan for the transition from school to postsecondary education or work, as well as resources for parents and educators." [Click here](#) to be taken to the transition planning section of disability.gov.

Disability Connection

To receive the Disability.gov newsletter, Disability Connection, please [click here](#).

Access Board

Another valuable governmental resource is the United States Access Board. [Click here](#) for a list of webinars and other resources.



The Access Board is an independent Federal agency which is a leading source of information on accessible design. The Board develops and maintains design criteria for the built environment, transit vehicles, telecommunications equipment, and for electronic and information technology. It also provides technical assistance and training on these requirements and on accessible design and continues to enforce accessibility standards that cover federally funded facilities.

The Board is structured to function as a coordinating body among Federal agencies and to directly represent the public, particularly people with disabilities. Half of its members are representatives from most of the Federal departments. The other half is comprised of members of the public appointed by the President, a majority of whom must have a disability.

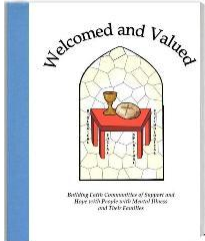
Compilation of Federal Disability Statistics

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research is a branch of the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services. They have published data from research and outreach activities from major national surveys and the administrative records of government programs. To view the data [click here](#).

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.) To download the Resource Manual [click here](#).



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.

National Collaboration on Workforce and Disability (NCWD)

In conjunction with our upcoming webinar on Access to Catholic Education: High School, we thought it timely to post this website of NCWD. As they note in their byline, their purpose is "Making the Connection between Youth with Disabilities & Employment."



Please review the following topical publications which are available for download and available in Spanish.

- [*Guideposts for Success*](#)
- [*Guideposts for Employers Success*](#)
- [*Guideposts for Success for Youth Involved in the Juvenile Corrections System*](#)
- [*Guideposts for Success for Youth with Mental Health Needs*](#)
- [*Guideposts for Success for Youth in Foster Care*](#)

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

Friday, January 22nd

March for Life

Washington, DC

Sunday, February 7 - Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG)

Washington, DC

For details on this conference, the Diversity Outreach Initiative and to register, visit

www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org.



Saturday, February 13, 2010

Archdiocese of Washington, Second Annual Conference on Faith, Deafness & Disabilities: Creating Communities Where All Are Welcome

Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament: 9am - 5pm

For more information [click here](#).

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, February 27

In God's Image: Disability Ministry Conference

St. Theresa Church, Houston

A conference for Pastors, Deacons, Seminarians, Directors of Faith Formation, Catechists, Pastoral and Social Justice Ministers, Families, Friends and Care Providers of children or adults with disabilities, and all with a heart for disability ministry.

Cost \$10. Priests, Deacons (and their wives), Candidates in the Diaconate, and Seminarians are invited to attend free of charge. See brochure by [clicking here](#).

For more information contact Charleen Katra - CCE Office - (713) 741-8793 or ckatra@archgh.org

Saturday, March 6, 2010

Religious Sign Interpreters Workshop

Westmont, NJ

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

Monday, April 19- Thursday, April 22, 2010

74th Annual NCCL Conference and Exposition

Catechesis: An Oasis Amidst Diversity

Bally's Hotel, Las Vegas Nevada

For information and registration go to <http://www.nccl.us/>

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 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 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

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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.

Please note that appearance may differ between email providers.