

**NCPD
E-NEWS
FEBRUARY
2010**



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February is Black History Awareness Month

In the US we celebrate Black History Awareness Month annually. With our specific focus at NCPD being one that looks at the aspects of disability ministry and our Catholic family at every opportunity, we invite you to take this month to examine your ministry and its focus to strengthen your programs and outreach as applied in the context of 25% of our global Catholic family, those of African descent (see study below as linked to the National Black Catholic Congress at www.nbcccongress.org).

A study was commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in November, 2002, conducted under contract by the Center for Educational Partnerships, a not-for-profit educational organization based in Chicago, IL., to achieve some reliable statistics in relationship to Catholic school children with disabilities. Ethnicity was one of the criteria examined. The November 2002 publication is available at www.usccb.org through searching in "fed asst idea".

Although other studies have shown that minority students are disproportionately represented in special education in public schools, the study finds:

- Catholic school children with disabilities appear to be enrolled in roughly the same proportion by ethnicity as their non-disabled peers;
- 10.9 percent of the Catholic school population is Hispanic; 9 percent of Catholic school children with disabilities are Hispanic;
- 8 percent of the Catholic school population is African-American; 9 percent of Catholic school children with disabilities are African-American.



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Ethnicity of Catholic school children with disabilities	Percentage of Catholic school enrollment	Percentage of Catholic school enrollment for children with disabilities
Caucasian	74.4	79
Hispanic	10.9	9
African American	8	8
Asian	3.9	3
Other	2.8	1

Ethnic populations vary throughout the United States, but within the context of your diocese, parish and community, how are the needs of those with ethnic diversity being addressed in your programs: catechetical, youth ministry, Catholic schools, adult education, etc..., and more to our point, how are those with disability being identified, sought out for leadership and their giftedness, and served by our Church? Black History Month is a great reminder for us to be mindful of our brothers and sisters of African descent with disabilities as we continue to seek ways to strengthen the cultural diversity of our dioceses, parishes and ministries.

Below are websites which I found to provide helpful resources in this endeavor:

- National Black Catholic Congress www.nbccongress.org.
For Worldwide data, [click here](#).
 - Here are a few summary statistics.
 - Global Catholics of African Descent: 270 million (almost 25% of the 1 billion Roman Catholics throughout the world in more than 59 countries)
 - 3 million Americans of African Descent in the United States (Data from 2005 research. Research done by the Catholic African World Network.)
- Seattle National Family for the Advancement of Minorities with Disabilities has a page that lists national resources ([click here](#) to view).
- [National Black Deaf Advocates](#)
Promotes leadership development, economic and educational opportunities, social equality, and to safeguard the general health and welfare of Black deaf and hard of hearing people.
- Black Catholic Catechetical Network
Office of African American Catholic Ministries
Archdiocese of Baltimore
 - The Black Catholic Catechetical Network's purpose is to articulate, enhance and revitalize catechesis for Black Catholics throughout the United States.
<http://www.archbalt.org/ministries-offices/african-american-catholic-ministries/index.cfm>

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- National African American Catholic Youth Ministry Network, founded in 1986 in response to the needs of African American youth ministers and youth. As an affiliate of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, NAACYMN provides a collective voice for its members, in addressing the growing needs and diversity of youth and youth ministers in the African American community.
 - Mr. Michael Youngblood, Office of Black Catholic Ministries 419/244-6711 ext. 296
www.nbccongress.org
- Youth and Young Adult Black Catholics
 - Resource list for Youth Ministers in the Black Catholic Community:
<http://www.nbccongress.org/resources/resource-list-youth-ministers-01.asp>

NCPD News and Notes

NCPD Webinar on Catholic Education



NCPD's February 16 webinar, Part 2 in a series on Catholic Education, will focus on High Schools. The webinar will feature Dr. Karen Tichy, (above right) Associate Superintendent for Instruction, Department of Special Education in the Archdiocesan Catholic Education Office, Saint Louis, Missouri; and Doreen C. Engel, (below right) MA, Director of Special Education, Archdiocese of Washington and High School Educator, Washington, DC.



[Click here](#) for information on the webinar content and to register.



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.

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

A New Kind of Listening

www.anewkindoflistening.com

A New Kind of Listening is witness to Chris Mueller-Medlicott's early, unrecognized attempts to communicate, and to his journey from a lonely, withdrawn adolescent to co-director of a theater group. Over the course of a year, Chris, a young man who has never spoken a word and has been mislabeled



"profoundly mentally retarded," breaks through into stunning self-expression. Using intimate footage of rehearsals and performances, synthesized voice recordings of Chris' words, archival home videos and interviews with cast members, the film is a remarkable record of events culminating in a performance of "The Song that Greens the Earth" at one of Raleigh's most prestigious theaters. ... The result is a groundbreaking film that will change your beliefs about intelligence, disability and what it takes to be heard. (<http://www.anewkindoflistening.com/about.html>) To view the trailer [click here](#). Links to organizations involved with disability and the arts are listed at their website under [Resources](#).

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

Marsha Rivas, of the Diocese of Toledo's Equal Access Ministry provides us with February's Inclusion Tip, *Postsecondary Education for Students with IDD*. Thank you for realizing the potential for all to reach for the stars! [Click here](#) for the tip sheet. To learn more about disability ministry in Toledo visit the [Equal Access Ministry](#) webpage.

Second Annual Conference on Faith, Deafness & Disabilities: Conference Postponed to March 27th due to Weather

Peg Kolm, Archdiocese of Washington, Disability Ministry, Department of Special Needs Ministries invites all to their Second Annual Conference on *FAITH, DEAFNESS & DISABILITIES: Creating Communities Where All Are Welcome*. The workshops are on parish-based ministry and community services. Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl will be the principal celebrant for the closing liturgy. [Click here](#) for more information, [click here](#) for the agenda, and see in event section below. The event is Co-sponsored by the Potomac Community Resources, Inc.; the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute of Catholic Charities; and the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind/DeafREACH.



Sunday Liturgy Workshop

Sr. Kathleen Schipani, Archdiocese of Philadelphia; Sr. Bonnie McMenamen, Diocese of Camden and Deacon Tom Smith, Archdiocese of Newark share information about the NJ Pastoral Workers and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Deaf Ministries Sunday Liturgy Workshop. Presenters include Amy June Rowley, 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 interpreting the prayers of the Catholic Mass and share with us the findings of the National Religious Sign Project.



Rev. Dennis Gill, Director of the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, will present on the meaning and structure of the Mass prayers with an emphasis on preparing for the new English translation of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal. [Click here](#) for a flyer and more information: Registration deadline is Feb. 25, 2010.

Catholic Social Teaching Conference

A Day of Learning, Reflecting, and Transformation

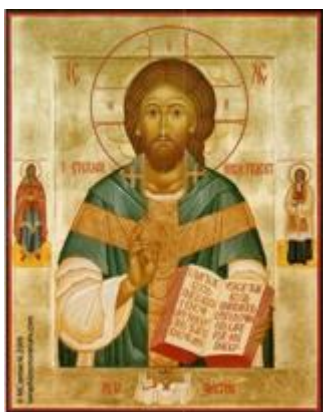
Nita Grignol, the diocesan disability minister of the diocese of Richmond has informed us of an event on Catholic social teaching. The Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice (CAPP) foundation will be holding workshops in Richmond on March 6th. CAPP is a lay-led, pontifical foundation established by Pope John Paul II that is headquartered at the Vatican. CAPP is the vehicle for lay education and evangelization of Catholic Social Doctrine. Presenters will include Robert Nalewajek - President, (CAPP) - USA, and a Director of the Foundation at the Vatican, and Dr. Karen Wright - Director of The Catholic University of America - CAPP CST Certificate Program. [Click here](#) for more information and registration.

Stauros USA-Access to the Land of the Bible-Study Tour for Persons With Disabilities

Deacon Don Grossnickle Ed.D, Stauros USA Executive Director encourages you to pass on information about the August 17-28, 2010, Stauros USA-Access to the Land of the Bible-Study Tour for Persons With Disabilities. This tour marks Stauros' seventh "Access to the Land of the Bible" trip specifically designed for persons living with disabilities. The ecumenical study tour will be led by Father Donald Senior, C.P., celebrated scripture scholar, president of Chicago's Catholic Theological Union, and a prestigious member of the Vatican Pontifical Bible Commission, appointed by the Holy Father. [Click here](#) for brochure.

Seeds of Light E-Zine

In the January, 2010 *Seeds of Light* E-Zine, Deacon Don interviewed a very interesting man named Bryan Pratt. Bryan can be reached at his website at www.disabilityoutreach.org. Check it out for many unique ideas and resources. Click the DOFM button at the top of the page and you will go to the music page to hear some incredibly inspiring, challenging, faith-filled, and, yes, some funny music by people with disabilities. A sample of titles include: You'd Be Amazed (That You Can Do A Lot), Invincibility, Some May Walk, The Power to Prevail, We're People First, Assistive Technology Boogie, We're Saying No to Euthanasia, I'm Ready to Fly, Wheel Chair (to the theme of "Wild Thing"). Lyrics are provided for many of the songs. Don't miss the "spiffy website" as Bryan called it in the article. To subscribe to the *Seeds of Light* Ezine, [click here](#).



Year for Priests: Fr. Mike Joly

Bishop Francis DiIorenzo installed Father Mike Joly as pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Yorktown, Virginia on Sunday, November 8 2009. Fr. Mike has enjoyed three and a half years in Campus Ministry at the College of William and Mary and serves various needs as director of retreats, parish missions, youth rallies and conferences. Fr. Mike also happens to be totally blind and has been since he was five years old.

Father Joly says his story is not about success, but about hope. "Hope is something divine," he said in an interview with the New York Times after he was ordained 15 years ago. "The only thing I am to anyone who's interested in listening is a committed sign of hope. Look at the power of hope." Fr. Mike said. At his ordination, he prayed from a sacramentary, a book used by priest during Mass, that he created with a computer and a Braille printer. Joly had set out to reproduce some of the essential works for use in Catholic worship in Braille, for himself and other blind priests. The priests he knows of became blind after they were already ordained.



Father Mike grew up in Cumberland, Rhode Island, one of ten children reared by Armand Joly, his father, a police officer and salesman. Michael developed a brain tumor at age five and the surgery to remove the growth left him blind.

His sister Nancy McNally says, "Our father basically gave Mike a choice between feeling sorry for himself or doing something with his life." ([continued](#))

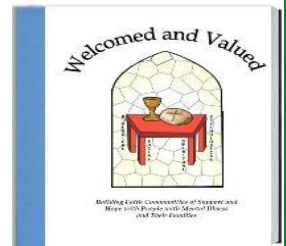
Resources

NCPD has resources available for sale and for free viewing or downloading from its website, including:

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](#).



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 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.

NCPD 2010 Calendar Download

[Click here](#) for a downloadable version of NCPD's 2010 calendar including webinar schedule.



Catechetical and outreach resources for children and catechists on Haiti

Our Sunday Visitor February/Lent 2010 edition of Teaching Catholic Kids, available online ([click here](#)).

Find an Assistive Technology Resource Center in Your State

[State Assistive Technology \(AT\) Act programs](#) work to improve access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities through comprehensive statewide programs. These programs include device loans, AT reuse, device demonstrations and state financing activities. For examples of how some states have helped people with disabilities get assistive technology visit the Web site of the [Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs](#) (ATAP). For a listing of AT manufacturers and distributors in your state visit [ABLEDATA](#).

For more information about assistive technology and its role in increasing the independence of people with disabilities visit Disability.gov's [Technology](#) section.

Facing Life TV

We wanted to inform you of a weekly series entitled *Facing Life Head-On*. Each week it covers topics that promote awareness on life issues.



Each episode takes you inside the homes and workplaces of guests who daily demonstrate face topics as diverse as adoption, disabilities, abortion, cancer, stem cell treatments, medical technologies, and end-of-life care. *Facing Life Head-On* was nominated for "Best TV Talk Show" by the National Religious Broadcasters. It combines education with entertainment to promote the value of life at all stages. For more information [click here](#). To find out where it airs in your area [click here](#).

Calendar of Events

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

[Click here](#) for more information or email Sr. Kathleen Schipani from the Diocese of Philadelphia, srschipa@adphila.org if you are interested and not already on her mailing list.

Saturday, March 27, 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](#).

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.

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