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NCPD

NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARTNERSHIP ON DISABILITY

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NCPD E-NEWS

APRIL 2010

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Wishing you a blessed Easter season!

A Life Like Yours

A Life Like Yours is a video that shares the story of Maddie, who reminds us of the dignity and joy that can be found in every human life. It premiered before 18,000 people at the



Youth Rally and Mass for Life, held at the Verizon Center in Washington, DC on January 22, 2010. This video was produced in collaboration with NCPD by the Office of Special Needs and the Life Issues Department of the Archdiocese of Washington. We commend Peg Kolm, the video's producer, who is the Archdiocese's Coordinator in the Office of Ministry for Persons with Disabilities and NCPD's part-time Director of Development. Watch the NCPD website for news on ordering this video. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

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Newest NCPD Webinar coming soon!
Advanced Considerations: Supporting Youth and Young Adults with Mental Illnesses
Tuesday, May 4, 2010, 1-2:00 p.m. Eastern.

Presenters include Dr. Bob McCarty, DMin, author and international presenter, Executive Director, National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and Dr. Paul Myers, PhD, Health Services Director, University of Portland University Health Center and therapist, Northwest Catholic Counseling Center, Portland, OR. A young woman will join with Bob and Paul to share her experience of faith as she was treated for mental illness. [Click here](#) for additional information, a downloadable brochure and registration link.



Catholic Social Ministry Gathering Snowed-out For Many

Neither blizzard winds nor 55 inches of snow could stop this unique Gathering. If you were not able to attend the 2010 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, which the USCCB co-sponsors annually with NCPD and several others, you missed one of the most unique meetings in the history of the Gathering.

Audio CDs are on sale if you would like to share in the experience of this Gathering. The USCCB is selling copies of the 2010 meeting so click here <http://www.usccb.org/jphd/csmg/docs/2010-audio-form.pdf>.

Make plans now to attend the 2011 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, February 13 - February 16 at the Omni Shoreham which is located at 2500 Calvert Street NW (at Connecticut Ave.), Washington, DC 20008.

NCPD News and Notes

Preview of Oct. NCPD Webinar Topic Advanced Considerations: Threats to the Lives of People with Disability, Part I, Poor Prenatal Diagnosis

Marianne is a peer minister with Be Not Afraid, a parish-based ministry supporting parents in the Diocese of Charlotte who are carrying to term following the diagnosis of a lethal or disabling condition affecting their unborn child. Below is a letter she wrote to a mom who had just received a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. (For purposes of this article, personal information was removed from the letter.) She begins:

“Dear Fellow Mom,

I feel compelled to write to you. I know nothing about you except that we share one common thread. We both received a Down syndrome diagnosis while pregnant. Mine came in the Spring of 2008 when I was 11 weeks pregnant with my fourth child. I can tell you two absolute truths. Number one is that Adam (now 16 months) and my three other children are the lights of my life. Number two is that if anyone had told me I would feel that way about him while I was still pregnant, I would never have believed them.” [Click here](#) for more of her letter



To learn more about this program, go to [the National website](#) or contact Be Not Afraid Ministry by calling Sandy Buck at 704.948.4587 or by email at benotafraidnc@live.com

Voices of Faith

Check out the uplifting section of our NCPD website called Voices of Faith ([click here](#)). We recently added a story called “A Place to Call Home” which was written by Diocese of Richmond Parish Advocate Karen Jackson, from Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Norfolk, who is also Director of the Faith Inclusion Network (FIN) of South Hampton Roads. You won’t want to miss this inspiring piece about her daughter, Samantha which begins,



“Hand in hand, we slip as quietly as possible into the sanctuary to receive communion at the Saturday evening Mass. First, we stop at the baptismal font to bless ourselves. I carefully guide my daughter’s hand into the warm Holy Water and, hand over hand; helped her to make the sign of the cross.

Next is the more difficult part.”

[Click here](#) for the rest of the story

Down Syndrome Patients Could Unlock Secrets of Aging

Questions seem to arise too often regarding the value and purpose of lives of people with disabilities. We tragically hear that 90% of pregnancies with a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome end in abortion. As people of faith, we strongly believe in the value of all life. As friends and/or families with people who have a member with Down syndrome, we can attest personally to the enrichment our lives have gained through our relationship with people having this disability. A recent article in USA Today provides even more reason to value the contributions which come through the lives of people with Down syndrome. [See more...](#)

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

World Youth Day-Madrid

Dorothy Coughlin, Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon reminds us to make sure to reach out to youth with disabilities to attend World Youth Day-Madrid with your diocesan groups. There is a special Disability Team that has been established to coordinate services for the smooth integration of youth with a variety of disabilities. This collaborative team is eagerly preparing for WYD and hopes to create an atmosphere where youth with disabilities are not only included, but comfortable. [View article...](#)

Autism, Disabilities and Faith in Utah Legislature

Carol Ruddell, Diocese of Salt Lake Disability Commission shares the good news on the Utah House Concurrent Resolution: Autism, Disabilities and Faith. The Utah legislature passed a resolution recognizing a week in April/May as Autism, Disabilities and Faith Week. It's a first! To see the Resolution, go to <http://le.utah.gov/~2010/htmdoc/hbillhtm/HCR009.htm>. There you can see the actual Bill text and how it has moved along. It basically passed unanimously in both houses, with some folks being absent.

Note from NCPD to Carol upon her mentioning that their Commission was going to explore ways the diocese can highlight disability during April and May (also signified as Mental Health Month). "Maybe your commission would like to encourage parishes to show our *Welcomed and Valued* video and have a panel discussion of some people who live with mental illness or family members. The video is 27 minutes long, and has been very well received."

Inclusion Tip

Marsha Rivas, Diocese of Toledo brings to us a tip sheet this month that she received from the Diocese of Columbus, and encourages us all to remember to keep couples who have a child with disability in special prayers this month.

Marriage and a Special-Needs Child: Tips for Meeting the Challenge

Carolyn called me to discuss her marriage to Tom. “We were like a lot of couples. It used to be hard to find time for each other what with work and the boys, but when our Jimmy was diagnosed with profound autism, it was like a bomb went off.” [Click here](#) for the tip sheet.

To learn more about disability ministry in Toledo visit the [Equal Access Ministry](#) webpage.

Dolores Wilson, Director of Bethlehem House, Shares Beatitudes Reflection

“Blessed are those who weep, for they shall be comforted.” Jean Vanier reminds us that each Beatitude draws us closer to the Heart of Jesus. We begin to see with our own hearts and minds the humanness of the one who became our Savior.

During the time of the Journey of Jesus, we have read in the Gospels how he wept over Jerusalem and how inconsolable he was when his friend Lazarus died. Often, there was no place to lay his head at the end of the day. Perhaps, he wept tears of yearning for his Mother and the home they shared.

Journal about a time when tears lifted us out of our selfishness to the realization of the grace of the comfort of the Holy Spirit.” To see the entire article, [click here](#).

Homily on Spiritual Blindness by Deacon Tom Lambert

[Click here](#) to read...

Don't miss out: Final Call: 5 spaces left for the Stauros Holy Land Tour

led by Fr Don Senior for Persons with Disabilities August 16-27, 2010.

Applications closed Friday: April 9.

Note: We also have several openings for attendants who offer assistance.

Contact Deacon Don at 773-484-0581

[Click here](#) to view a flyer. Visit the Stauros Web site for information about the tour at:

<http://www.stauros.org/nexttrip.html> .

The Father Factor: Understanding the Special Needs of Fathers

Anne Masters from Newark is co-hosting with St. John the Evangelist parish on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 from 7:00-9:00 p.m., an event which focuses on the needs of fathers.

What does a man do with a problem that he can't fix? Men and women often look at the same thing differently, and raising a child with special needs is no exception. This presentation will explore the unique perspective that men bring to parenting a child who is not "typical." Participants will be guided in expressing their thoughts and feelings in a structured format. The presenter utilizes video and discussion to illustrate common challenges and facilitate discussion. [Click here](#) for a copy of Anne's flyer.

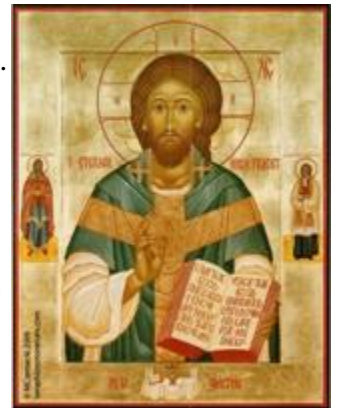
Year for Priests: Fr. Dave Duffeck

Some people see Fr. Dave Duffeck's quad cane as a symbol of his disability. But Fr. Duffeck, who has a permanent spinal cord injury, sees the four-footed cane as a bridge.

He explained that the cane, which he uses to help him walk, bridges the distance between him and his parishioners, especially those who also suffer from physical or emotional challenges.

"They see that you struggle and they know you understand their struggles," he said. "It helps me in my pastoral work very much. That's the blessing."

Fr. Duffeck was installed as pastor of St. Joseph and St. Mary parishes in Oneida Feb. 20 by Bishop David Ricken. Ordained in 2006, he served as associate pastor at St. Francis Xavier and St. Mary parishes in De Pere before being appointed to his first pastorate last summer.



While he admits that his physical limitations do change his approach to ministry, Fr. Duffeck believes it has helped form a special bond with his parishioners." Read more... [Priest Turns His Disability Into An Outreach Opportunity](#) (The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay, The Compass March 17.)(Photo by Sam Lucero | The Compass)

At left: Fr. Dave Duffeck celebrates Mass at St. Joseph Church in

Oneida March 13. A hand rail attached to the altar helps Fr. Duffeck balance himself when necessary.

Bishops Encourage Vigilance that Health Care Legislation Protects Conscience and Does Not Fund Abortion

- Applaud efforts to expand health care to all.
- Emphasize need to guarantee federal money does not go to abortion.
- Need to address flaws in health reform plan just signed into law.

March 23, 2010 Washington---The U.S. bishops called on Congress and people in the Catholic community to make sure promises are kept that new health care legislation will not expand abortions in the United States.

[Click here for more...](#)

Census 2010—be sure to be counted

The disability community is hard to count—be sure to encourage people to be counted. There is a Toolkit for Reaching People with Disabilities designed to help organizations that serve people with disabilities communicate the benefits of census participation. Below are descriptions and suggested uses of all available resources associated with the toolkit. Depending on your needs, you may follow instructions to download and print individual documents, or you can [download the complete toolkit](#) with all components (ZIP 102.9 MB).

[Sign up for e-mail updates to receive information changes.](#)

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Can Help People With Disabilities

EITC and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) are two vital resources that are underutilized. The EITC when coupled with the use of a VITA location and financial literacy is a proven strategy to help low-income individuals raise themselves out of poverty. To learn whether an individual is eligible for the EITC, visit the website below. The program will also assist in determining correct filing status, determining whether child(ren) meet the tests for a qualifying child, and estimate the amount of credit an individual may receive.

<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=130102,00.html>



Vatican Launches Twitter Feed

The Vatican has added Twitter to its menu of media sources. This free, micro-blogging service allows users to send or receive brief messages (tweets) by computer or smartphone. The Vatican Radio and other media sources of the Holy See will be able to quickly distribute information and news that is of interest to the life of the Church in six languages. This use of technology is added to the Vatican's options which include a new web page at www.resources.va and its own Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/vatican. Read more about it in this Zenit article at http://twitter.com/news_va_en.

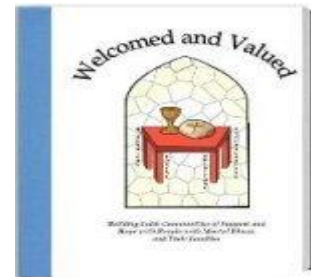
Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA)

The 2010 Webinar Series is a new collection of live, interactive, online educational events. They cover a broad range of topics to help you enhance your knowledge of assistive technology. For information on *upcoming webinars for April through May* go to The ATIA website for complete [session abstracts](#), [learning outcomes](#), and [speaker biographies](#).

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

MI Network News

The Monthly Newsletter of the National Catholic Network on Mental Illness

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.

Calendar of Events

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/>

Tuesday, May 4, 2010, 1-2:00 p.m. Eastern **NCPD Webinar: Advanced Considerations:** **Supporting Youth and Young Adults with Mental Illnesses**

[Click here](#) for more information and registration link.

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 from 7:00-9:00 p.m

The Father Factor: Understanding the Special Needs of Fathers

St. John the Evangelist parish, Newark, NJ

[Click here](#) to see flyer. Contact 201-384-3601 for reservation.

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](#).

The NAMI FaithNet Networking Session on Wednesday, June 30th -- 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm may be attended without registering for the entire NAMI Conference.

Wrestling with Our Inner Angels: Faith, Mental Illness and the Journey to Wholeness - Nancy Clare Kehoe, Ph.D. - Friday, July 2 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

Getting Started with NAMI FaithNet Outreach- Friday, July 2, 3:45 pm - 5:15 pm - Craig Rennebohm and Carole Wills.

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.

To register or see more details go to: <http://holleyfv.org/ASLWeek.aspx>

Saturday, July 31, 2010
National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry (NAFIM)

Annual Membership Meeting & Workshop

9 AM to 5:00 PM

Washington Theological Union

Washington DC

Topic: Catechesis

Call 800-736-1280 or email info@nafim.org for more information

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. Contact Fr. Mike Depcik at Depcik@desales.org if you have questions. [Click here to register.](#)

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.

REGISTRATION CLOSES: Friday April 9

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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