



NCPD E-NEWS

May 2010

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ADA 20th Anniversary

Happy Mother's Day!

Great blessings and joy to those who mother others: blood kin and beyond.

May is Mental Health Month

May is a good time to talk about mental illness and the effects on the individual and the family. Some suggestions:

- Use the bulletin articles on the NCPD website ([click here](#)).
- Use the article on "Stained Glass Window" that talks about inclusion ([attached](#)).
- Prayers of the faithful ([click here](#)).
- Show the DVD "Welcomed and Valued" ([click here](#)). Scroll down for options.
- Use information from the "resource binder" for an article on mental illness ([click here](#) for resource binder or [here](#) to order printed version).
- Host a mass celebrating the lives of people with mental illness, their families, care givers.
- Celebrate St Dymphna's feast day May 15th ([see homily](#) - can be modified to suit local needs and used in an article for bulletin or other publication).



[Resources](#)

Assistive Technology

The Father's Network

[Calendar of Events](#)

Webinars

Other Events

Archived E-News

[Click here](#)

Resources:

- NCPD - www.ncpd.org
- NAMI - www.nami.org
- [NAMI FaithNet Newsletter: May 2010](#)
- Pathways to Promise - www.pathways2promise.org
- Mental Health Ministries - www.mentalhealthministries.net
- Archdiocese Chicago Mental Illness Ministries - www.miministry.org
- NCPD Webinar on suicide - [click here](#)
- NCPD Webinar on the sacramental life of people with mental illness - [click here](#).
- NCPD Webinar supporting people with mental illness in your parish - [click here](#).

Upcoming Webinar

Rescheduled to June 10.

Advanced Considerations: Mental Illness in Youth and Young Adults, June 10, 2010



Presented by the NCPD Council on Mental Illness as part of its Welcomed and Valued Initiative, and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), helping parishes support the spiritual life of youth and young adults.

Presenters: Dr. Robert McCarty, Executive Director of NFCYM and Dr. Paul Myers, Director of Student Health Services, University of Portland, OR.



Dr. Robert McCarty



Dr. Paul Myers

Partners for this production: National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD), National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), and National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), in consultation with National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association (NCYAMA).

[Click here](#) for flyer. [Click here](#) to register.

NCPD News and Notes

20th Anniversary of the ADA coming soon!

July 26, 2010 is the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Did you know that when the ADA was first debated on the floor of the U.S. Senate, the following words were read by one of the prime sponsors:

"Defense of the right to life implies the defense of other rights which enable the individual with a disability to achieve the fullest measure of personal development. . . . These include the right to equal opportunity in education, in employment, in housing, as well as the right to free access to public accommodations, facilities and services. Passage of this bill will mean discrimination solely on the basis of handicaps will be not only immoral but illegal."

These words came from a letter of support from the U.S. Catholic bishops. We can be proud of our bishops' support of the intent of that public legislation. The intention of the ADA is to ensure that children and adults with disabilities receive equal opportunities to participate in society, free from discrimination. This goal of the 1990 legislation is consistent with the very highest social justice teachings associated with a life of faith.

The 1978 *Pastoral Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities* preceded the ADA by 12 years. In that wonderful document, (for a copy click on [Bishops' Statements](#)), our U.S. Bishops sent a call and challenge to the Church on behalf of people with disabilities. The Gospel message, this *Pastoral* and subsequent documents remain the fuel of our ministry with and for people with disability today. Let us take advantage of the 20th anniversary of the ADA to once again bring to the attention of our parishes and dioceses the message of disability ministry. We can maximize this opportunity to engage people with disabilities in our parishes and dioceses, as well as in our public communities.

Get the Word Out: write editorials and op-eds for your parish bulletins and local newspapers; blog, tweet, and post on your social networks; and talk with family, friends and co-workers about the ADA, what it has meant, and what it still can mean in the years to come. Some people have never heard of the *1978 U.S. Bishops' Pastoral*. Take this opportunity to bring it to their attention ([click here](#)).

Read NCPD's 56-page booklet, *A Loving Justice, The Moral and Legal Responsibilities of the U.S. Catholic Church under the Americans with Disabilities Act*, Edited by Janice Benton, 1995, NCPD. Pages 17-42 specifically address "Responding to Common Concerns of the Catholic Community". The intent of this chapter is to clarify the specific requirements of the law as they pertain to the Catholic community. You can order this booklet by going to our website at www.ncpd.org and click on the "Order Resources" button. It is available for \$7.50 plus shipping and handling.

Visit www.Disability.gov for information about the 100 Day Countdown to the 20th Anniversary of the ADA (see below under the section dedicated to [Government/Legislative News and Notes](#)).

Never Gave Up

Meet Nick Vujcic as he ministers and witnesses to some Catholic teens! Truly inspiring! Click this link to a video on YouTube "never gave up...":

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywdh31_nCvY&feature=youtube_gdata

October Webinar Notes



NCPD is in final stages of confirming members of the incredible team we need to fill the presenter spots for our Oct. webinar: moral theologian, ethicist, medical doctor, support professional, and parent. The topic is *Threats to the Life of People with Disabilities, Part I: Poor Prenatal Lethal and Non-lethal Diagnosis*.

We want to "tempt" you with an introduction to one of the little guys who was fortunate to have pro-life parents and grandparents who fought to have him born alive, and a whole host of folks who prayed and gave support in ways they could. He was born at 25 weeks of gestation weighing less than two pounds, with lungs which were not mature enough to function on their own. Thomas is a treasured friend who was born June 14, 2008. You can "meet" him and his mom through the piece from his blog provided. Go to the link provided here (www.doubtnolonger.com) to see more pictures and read about his birth story as experienced by parents, Ann Marie and Ron, and siblings. Many others have done so:

Visits 6/19/2008 to 4/20/2010	As of 4/20/2010, visits from:
Unique visitors: 7,085	35 countries
Total visits: 90,551	47 U.S. states + D.C.

As Thomas approaches his 2nd birthday, join us in continued prayer for him and for his beautiful family!

Do you know this game? So does he!



The little bandana is a new accessory for Thomas. You like? It's our new bib alternative. A drool catcher, if you must. Because no big guy like this wants to wear a bib all day. (Even if he really needs to.) This way he can pretend like it's a neckerchief, like a Frenchman's. Or a Wild West trick for keeping dust out of the face while riding out on the open range.

Come to think of it, something like this might have come in handy in our trach days. Like on that day at the beach last summer when a certain two-year-old sister threw sand in a tracheal direction. Ever calm, Nurse Emily ran like the wind to the car for sterile Q-tips and there we were, on the beach, wiping grain after tiny, sticky grain of sand out of the very doorway to Thomas's lungs. By some miracle, not one made it into his trachea. But it was touch-and-go there for awhile.

I'm sure this has happened to you on a trip to the beach, no? What's that you say? Professional nurses don't accompany you on outings? Well, anyway . . . nurses used to come to the beach with us, and a bandana would have been good prevention. Happily now, this little necktie is just for catching drool. Not sand.

Hey, I think it's almost beach weather!

Posted by Anne Marie Thursday April 1, 2010 at 11:53 AM.

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 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.

Check out our Friends page
for a new way to support NCPD.



Diocesan/Partner News and Notes



Determining Readiness for Sacraments

Anne Masters, Director, Pastoral Ministry w/ Persons w/ Disabilities, Archdiocese of Newark: shares a discussion of readiness for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation for your use. It's one page, simple and references Canon Law and *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments for Persons with Disabilities* ([Click here](#)).

Inclusion Tip

Marsha Rivas, Equal Access Ministry, Diocese of Toledo Inclusion Tip: When Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Grieve ([click here](#)). This is a terrific resource for sharing not only life's joys, but also the sorrows of people with disabilities. For a complete listing of Inclusion Tips, [click here](#).



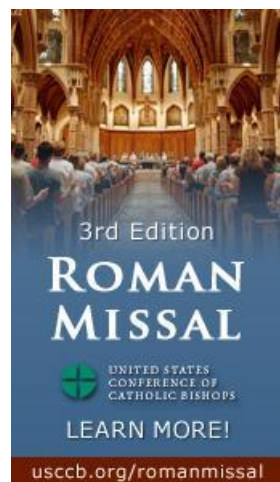
Options Program

Chris Desmarais, Paul VI Catholic High School, Fairfax VA shared the YouTube link below with us, which features a student of the Paul VI Catholic HS Options Program in a recent Channel 9 News feature. Check it out at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rELoTV1aZ2Q>

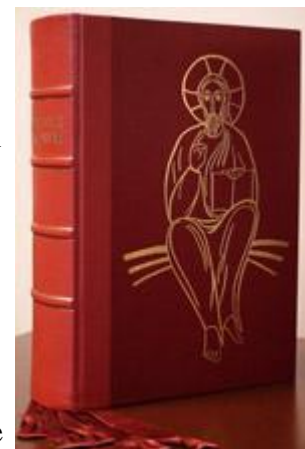
New Roman Missal

Lee Nagel, Executive Director, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) alerted Catechetical leaders in his May 3 newsletter about the approval of the new Roman Missal and NCPD passes it on to Disability Ministry diocesan directors and leaders, as well. You will want to be up to date on the changes which will be occurring in Mass.

The New Roman Missal is APPROVED: An Opportunity for Catechesis



The *Roman Missal, Third Edition*, the ritual text containing prayers and instructions for the celebration of the Mass, has been approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. The complete text of the *Roman Missal* is still undergoing final editing by Vatican officials. It is expected to be forwarded to Conferences of Bishops later this spring, at which time it will be prepared for publication. <http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/index.shtml>



It is very important that we stay abreast of the work by the Office of Divine Worship. I encourage you to avail yourself of the *General Resources* and the *Parish Resources* available on their website. Here is the Spanish version

<http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/espanol2.shtml>.

Year for Priests: Fr. Rick Curry, S.J.



May's Year for Priest's Feature: Fr. Rick Curry, S.J.

Jesuit Brother Rick Curry has a new vocation. He's now Jesuit Father Rick Curry. Becoming a priest at age 66, as he did Sept. 13, 2009, might seem to be a "late vocation," but the term doesn't apply in a typical sense to Father Curry.

In 2002, after Father Curry had spent 27 years as a Jesuit brother working with his National Theatre Workshop of the Handicapped, the workshop administrators were asked to bring returning wounded vets from Afghanistan and Iraq to begin a writers' program so that they could tell their own stories and, as Father Curry

told Catholic News Service, "open up the floodgates of post-traumatic stress."

"It was during that time that I began to be asked by the Wounded Warriors (the eventual name of the program) to actually hear their confession. I told them I was a Jesuit brother and not ordained. I told them that so frequently that I began to suspect there was some invitation there," Father Curry said. "I was so happy as a Jesuit brother I never thought of it (priesthood)."

Fr. Curry was born without a right forearm, earned a PhD in theater from New York University, and he's even played a psychiatrist on the television detective series "Monk." But he is perhaps best known as [continued...](#)



Government/Legislative News and Notes

100 Day Countdown: ADA's 20th Anniversary

From Disability.gov:

"We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future." With these words (penned by George Bernard Shaw), we want to introduce you to 100 Days to the ADA, a countdown to the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The official countdown began on Saturday, April 17, 2010.

Over the next four months, Disability.gov will explore one of our nation's most important civil rights achievements, including examining the ramifications of the ADA, historical points leading up to its creation and how supporting the rights of individuals with disabilities supports ALL Americans. We invite you to present your personal perspectives on how your life has been touched by the ADA and welcome ideas for new topics.

Check back every day for a new post on Disability.Blog ([click here](#)) and for more information on the ADA 100 day countdown.

Resources

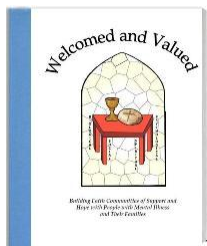
"Primer" on disability specific assistive technology:

[Finding the Right Assistive Technology](#)

The Fathers Network

A specific network to fathers of children with disabilities that provides up-to-date information and resources for fathers, family members, and care providers. They include information in Spanish (<http://www.fathersnetwork.org/>). Also see [Research briefing 18: Fathering a child with disabilities: issues and guidance](#).

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.

Calendar of Events

Saturday June 5, 9 am - 4 pm **Special Needs Catechesis Training**

Archdiocese of Washington's Department of Special Needs Ministries

"From Materials to Method" Keynote by Nancy Huber, Archdiocese of Chicago

A red banner with the text "Special Needs Catechesis" in gold and "June 5" in white.

Training for diocesan directors, DRE's, catechists & family members, with an emphasis on the use of Religious IEPs. Sessions on Autism, Deaf Ministry, Hispanic Ministry & Catechesis, Adult Faith Formation and SPRED. This event will be ASL interpreted and the site is wheelchair accessible. Registration and information is at www.adw.org (click on banner on left). For more information, contact Mary O'Meara, Executive Director, Department of Special Needs Ministries, at 301-459-7464 or at omearam@adw.org.

Participants from regional dioceses and archdioceses are most welcome. NCPD is planning a Saturday evening event for diocesan directors; for more information, contact Peg Kolm at kolmm@adw.org or at 240-994-0603.

Thursday, June 10, 2010, 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern
NCPD Webinar: Advanced Considerations:
Mental Illness in Youth and Young Adults
[Click here](#) for more information and registration link.

Saturday, June 26, 2010
Mental Illness Workshop: "Mental Health Professionals and Communities of Faith Responding to those with Mental Illness"
Cleveland, Ohio
You can contact Kathy Wither's by email at catholic@ameritech.net or leave a phone message at (216) 651-1511.
[Click here](#) for information.

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 - Sr. 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>

(Review the Deaf Catholic Youth Week as well while at the website.)

Saturday, July 31, 2010
National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry (NAFIM)
Annual Membership Meeting & Workshop

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Washington Theological Union

Washington DC

Topic: Catechesis

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

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