



## NCPD E-NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2010

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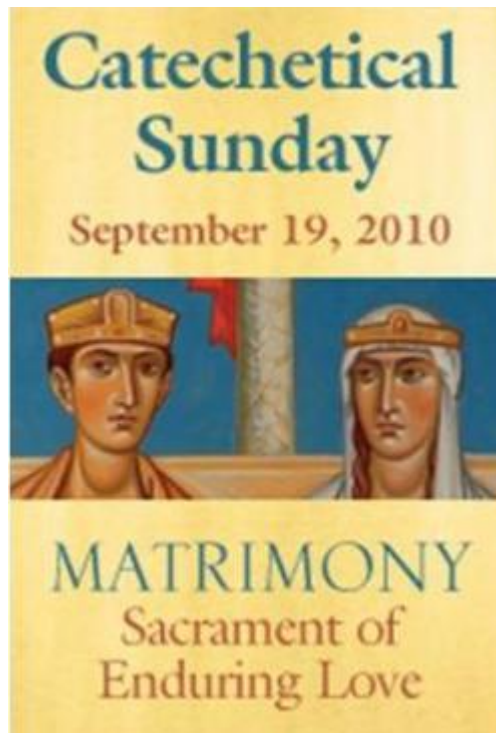
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## Catechetical Sunday



Catechetical Sunday is  
September 19 and the theme  
is “Matrimony: Sacrament  
of Enduring Love.”

Background materials are  
available online at the link  
below or by clicking on the  
picture. The free online  
materials include prayer  
resources, art, catechist  
commissioning materials,  
plans for a catechist in-  
service.

Those who have been  
designated by the  
community to serve as  
catechists will be called  
forth to be commissioned  
for their ministry.

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Make sure all catechists who are serving in disability ministry, including those providing individualized catechetical support, are welcomed to participate in the commissioning services.

Click here for materials, [www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday](http://www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday).

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## **Pilgrims with Disabilities in the Holy Land!**

A small group of 24, traveling through the Holy Land for eight days, followed the footsteps of Jesus and His disciples on their amazing journey. See beautiful photos and reflections in their monthly newsletter below. Thanks to STAUROS and Deacon Don Grossnickle for making this possible.

Click the image below for the *Seeds of Light* newsletter.



## **NCPD News and Notes**

### **October 5th Webinar on Prenatal Diagnosis**

We are so excited to see the variety of participants who have registered already for our Oct. 5 webinar, *Threats to the Lives of People with Disabilities, Part I: Prenatal Diagnosis of Lethal or Non-lethal Conditions and Disability*. With the increasing use of prenatal testing, many expectant mothers experience pressure to undergo abortion if their unborn child is found to have a potential physical or mental disability. Recent studies have shown that 90% of women who receive a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome, for instance, decide not to carry their child to term. Yet when parents receive appropriate information and support—that percentage drops significantly.

One of the best things we can report is the way dioceses across the US are organizing sites through cross-departmental efforts, more than ever before for our webinars. (See the list below in "Diocesan/Partner News and Notes." At the heart of these teams are found disability ministry



directors, leading the process with their pro-life, family life, hospital, and pastoral care counterparts. How exciting. [Click here](#) to register, download a flyer, and/or get more information.

The conference will feature Dr. John Bruchalski, OB/GYN, Fr. Dan Mindling, OFM Cap., Tracy Winsor, MPA, and Monica Rafie, and will be moderated by Marie Hilliard, JCL, PhD. RN.

As we continue to refine the script and develop resources to upload to our website for your ministry support, we appreciate your contact with requests of what you would find helpful for use in direct service, volunteer training, presentation materials, awareness, etc..., in relationship to the topic of prenatal diagnosis.

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## **Ministry Foundations Project Pilot in Washington**

The Ministry Foundations Project has been an epic in the making. But it has been done with you and your needs in mind. We will keep you posted about when and where the actual trainings will be available.

Looking through our files, I found an early formal proposal that was created by the original project Steering Committee. Within that Oct. 21, 2005 document, they wrote: "Among professional and volunteer workers in parish and diocesan programs there is a lack of understanding of the needs of persons with disabilities and a corresponding lack of knowledge and skill necessary to meet their needs. The purpose of this Seminar is to offer a short but intensive orientation to Ministry with Persons with Disabilities." We have held true to that statement and now, nearly 5 years later, Oct. 25-26, 2010, we will hold the first pilot of that training that is for evaluation purposes, only. Thirty individuals have been invited to attend, to experience, and critique the evening and day of activities, presentations, PowerPoints, and one-hour video which features the testimonies, stories and ministry of people with disabilities across the United States who were filmed at their locations for that purpose. If all goes well, it will be available for you next year at sites from East to West.

Deepest appreciation goes to the committee that has worked with NCPD staff to put the MFP pilot together and will present at the inaugural session in DC on Oct 25-26. They are:

Ann Sherzer, Director of Disability Ministry, Diocese of Kalamazoo

Marsha Rivas, Director of Disability Ministry, Diocese of Toledo

Anne Masters, Director of Disability Ministry, Diocese of Newark

Rose Parker, now past Director of Disability Ministry, Diocese of Wheeling - Charleston & Archdiocese of Washington, (married, moved to Germany and is now back, just moving into their new home in Alabama)

Margaret Shufflebarger, University of Dayton, Institute for Pastoral Initiatives

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## Welcome back to a new Ministry Year!

Please don't forget to visit our website [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org) to take advantage of the resources you will find to use as you plan your programs for the year, prepare for catechist inservice, and focus on awareness in parishes so children and youth with disabilities will be brought to register for parish and Catholic school programs. The entire website is intended to be a toolkit for you, with as many things as possible being available for your download and use. Our prayers and blessings are with you for the new ministry year. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of assistance to you.

### NCPD Needs Your Support

Donate  
to NCPD

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.

**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

### Diocesan Events Related to October 5th Webinar

Many dioceses are hosting group viewings and discussions, some with collaboration of the Disability and Pro-Life/Family Life departments. Below is a list of some of these events.

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## Office of Catechesis, Diocese of Trenton

Jennifer Hinton, Associate Director

### Large-screen Viewing of Internet Seminar

The Offices of Family Life and Life and Justice Ministries are pleased to host a large-screen viewing of this live internet seminar. Attendance is recommended for those involved in Family Life, Respect Life, Social Concerns and Health Care. This event is coordinated by Janis Bell, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, and Rev. Ian Trammell, Director of the Office of Life and Justice Ministries. For questions, contact the Family Life Office at 609-406-7400 ext. 5594/5573; [jbelle@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:jbelle@dioceseoftrenton.org). [Click here](#) for flyer.



## Archdiocese of Washington

Peg Kolm, Department of Special Needs Ministries

### Affirming Life Symposium:

At The Catholic University of America, Pryzbyla Student Center

This training will help clergy, medical professionals and pastoral care staff help pregnant mothers carry to term following an unexpected prenatal diagnosis of a disability. Emphasis will be on providing information and resources, as well as offering spiritual support to those families who may have not had the benefit of these resources. Tuesday, October 5 2:45 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact Peg Kolm, Department of Special Needs Ministries, at 301-853-4560 or at [mkolm@adw.org](mailto:mkolm@adw.org). [Click here](#) for a flyer.



## Archdiocese of Boston

Karen Murray, NCPD Board Member & Director of Disability Ministry and Marianne Luthin, Director Pro Life Office

### Webcast on "Poor Prenatal Diagnosis" to be Held at Pastoral Center

Through a partnership with the Pro Life/ Pregnancy Help, Disabilities, and Health Care ministries of the Archdiocese of Boston, online streaming of this webinar will be held at the auditorium of the Archdiocese of Boston Pastoral Center in Braintree on Tuesday, October 5 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm.

Archdiocesan and parish staff and volunteers are invited and encouraged to attend and learn about the pastoral concerns related to this most timely and important issue that threatens the lives of the unborn, the health of women, and the well-being of the family. Those interested in attending the live simulcast of the webinar at the Pastoral Center can register through the Pro Life Office at: [ProLifeOffice@rcab.org](mailto:ProLifeOffice@rcab.org) or call 508-651-1900. There is no charge but preregistration is required. [Click here](#) for flyer; [click here](#) for registration

**Lorrie Saldivar, Education Coordinator,  
Office of Pro-Life Activities and Chaste Living,  
Diocese of Austin**

**Multiple Large Group Viewing of Internet Seminar**

In a cross-departmental collaboration, the Diocese of Austin will be hosting multiple large group viewings and discussion sites for the webinar. [Click here](#) for a copy of their flyer.



**Other News**

**Peg Kolm, Coordinator of Disability Ministry  
Archdiocese of Washington**

**White Mass Honoring the Gifts of Persons with Special Needs**

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl will be the principal celebrant for the archdiocese's first annual "White Mass" to honor the gifts of persons with special needs, on Sunday, October 24, 2010 at 11:30 a.m., Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington, DC. The Mass will bring together national, regional and local leaders who have special needs and those who care for or serve them. Persons with special needs, family members, clergy, pastoral care workers, ministry and nonprofit staff, as well as leaders in business and government will also attend. The Mass has the designation of white because of the color's connection to baptism. The Mass will be sign language interpreted and the Cathedral is wheelchair-accessible. For more information about the Mass or accommodation requests, contact Peg Kolm at the Department of Special Needs Ministries, 301-853-4560 or at [mkolm@adw.org](mailto:mkolm@adw.org)



**Lilly Rangel-Diaz, IREACH & NCPD Board Member**

**20th Annual Network of Inclusive Catholic Education (NICE) Conference**

IREACH, INC. is proud to announce that registration for the 20th Annual Network of Inclusive Catholic Education (NICE) Conference which will be held in Miami at the Hotel Sofitel on November 5-6, 2010 is now officially open. We have a wonderful program. Space is limited! Register today by [clicking here](#)! For the flyer [click here](#).

**Bill Gaventa, M.Div., Coordinator,  
Community and Congregational Supports,  
The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities,  
New Brunswick, NJ**



**Conference: The Divine Power of Friendship,**  
Saturday, September 25 Keynote speeches and workshops offer tips, tools, and wisdom on developing or continuing your faith community's outreach to people with disabilities and their families. A distinct track offers guidance on developing a ministry to veterans. For more information contact Bill Gaventa at 782-235-9304 or [gaventwi@umdnj.edu](mailto:gaventwi@umdnj.edu). [Click here](#) for flyer.

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## **Catholic Charities USA to Celebrate Centennial**

**Affirms 100-year commitment to serve those in need.**

September 25, 2010 Catholic Charities USA, one of the nation's largest social service networks serving over 9 million people each year, will celebrate the 100-year anniversary of its founding.

Over 1,000 social service professionals from across the country will come to Washington, DC for the 4-day celebration, which will feature international Catholic leaders, national speakers, experts in poverty reduction, and representatives from partner organizations.



Highlights of the gathering include a main liturgy at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 25, celebrated by Francis Cardinal George, President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and past long-time NCPD Board Chair.

Catholic Charities USA was founded in 1910 "to bring about a sense of solidarity" among those in charitable ministries. Since 1910, Catholic Charities USA has encouraged professional social work practice, provided opportunities for training and networking, and served as a national voice and expert on poverty issues. Many diocesan disability ministry offices are housed within Catholic Charities offices. The Centennial is a time for us to reflect on their past accomplishments and celebrate the contributions they continue to make in the lives of people with disabilities. For more information about Catholic Charities USA's Centennial activities, visit <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/centennial>.

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## **Inclusion Tip: Guidelines for Teachers and Catechists**

Marsha Rivas of the Diocese of Toledo has provided us with another timely article as so many of us make our way back to the classrooms. [Click here](#) to see the article. For a complete listing of Inclusion Tips, [click here](#).



## Government/Legislative News and Notes

### Funding Blocked for Embryonic Stem Cell Research

The U.S. bishops welcomed an August 23, 2010 decision from a federal district court judge that blocked the U.S. President's executive order to expand federal funding for research on embryonic stem cells. In a statement on August 24, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, a long-time NCPD Board member and our current Episcopal Moderator, welcomed the decision as a "victory for common sense and sound medical ethics." See Cardinal DiNardo's statement at [www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2010/10-152.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2010/10-152.shtml).

He went on to say, "I hope this court decision will encourage our government to renew and expand its commitment to ethically sound avenues of stem cell research," Cardinal DiNardo added. "These avenues are showing far more promise than destructive human embryo research in serving the needs of suffering patients."

## Resources

### Disability Ministry Support

Visit [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org) for webinar archive links, downloadable handouts, PowerPoints, bibliographies, and much, much more.

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### New Roman Missal

New language for the priest and laity that will be used with the new Roman Missal is available at the following link, [www.usccb.org/romanmissal](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal). Help our students with disability become used to the new responses. Most parishes will begin using them in November of 2011, the first Sunday of Advent.

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### 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.

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, September 25**  
**Divine Power of Friendship Conference**

8:15 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.

Souderton Mennonite Church

105 W. Chestnut St., Souderton, PA 18964

Keynote speeches and workshops offer tips, tools, and wisdom on developing or continuing your faith community's outreach to people with disabilities and their families. A distinct track offers guidance on developing a ministry to veterans.

For more information contact Bill Gaventa at

782 235-9304 or [gaventwi@umdnj.edu](mailto:gaventwi@umdnj.edu).

Click here for [flyer](#).

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**Tuesday, October 5, 2010**

**NCPD Webinar Threats to the Lives of People with Disabilities, Part I:  
Prenatal Diagnosis of Lethal or Non-lethal Conditions & Disability**

1:00-2:30 p.m. ET

Live from at Catholic University of America, Washington DC

Check back to [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org) for more details

[Click here](#) for a flyer.

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**October 9, 2010 - 9:45 am – 3:30 pm**

**Affirming Life: Making A Difference!**

Pastoral Center 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294

(Registration begins at 9 am)

Opening 9:45 –Keynote 10 am

Purpose of the Workshop will be to educate on the dignity of the human person and the value of each and every person, disabled or non-disabled and then to focus on the programs/ministries that our diocesan churches have started that affirm life and make a difference for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Contact: Nita Grignol, 804 622-5260 or [ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org)

[Click here](#) for the flyer

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**Saturday, October 9, 2010**

**Parish Contact/DRE Workshop**

***Topic: Mental Illness: Welcomed and Valued/The Role of the Faith Community***

Maternity B.V.M. Parish Hall

9322 Old Bustleton Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19115-4686

(parking on premises)

*For Additional Information:*

Phone: 215-587-3530 (voice), 215-587-3913(tty/vp),

Email: [jlavende@adphila.org](mailto:jlavende@adphila.org). [Click here](#) for the flyer.

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**Saturday, October 9, 2010**

**Deaf Adult Retreat**

**Saint Katherine Drexel Shrine**

1662 Bristol Pike

Bensalem, PA 19020

For directions: [www.katharinedrexel.org](http://www.katharinedrexel.org)

[Click here](#) for flyer.

Sr. Kathleen Schipani

215-587-3913 v/tty;267-507-1215 vp, or email [srschipa@adphila.org](mailto:srschipa@adphila.org)

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**Saturday, October 23, 2010**

**Eunice Kennedy Shriver Challenge**

20 Mile Cyle, 5K Run 3K Walk

Washington Monument, Begins at 7 a.m.

Come celebrate the life and legacy of Archdiocese of Washington parishioner, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of Special Olympics. Her vision became a beacon for many, to show the world that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can achieve and thrive in society. This inaugural event will demonstrate the importance of sports, acceptance, friendship and inclusion. To register, go to [www.ekschallenge.org](http://www.ekschallenge.org).

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**Friday & Saturday, November 5 and 6, 2010**

**20th Annual Conference and Benefit Dinner**

**Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators (NICE)**

Hotel Sofitel, Miami, FL

Register by [clicking here](#)!

[Click here](#) for flyer.

Contact: Lilly Rangel-Diaz at 786 753-3858 or [ireachfl@gmail.com](mailto:ireachfl@gmail.com)

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