



NCPD E-NEWS

DECEMBER 2010

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Opportunities for Advent and Christmas

Create opportunities for experiences of Advent and Christmas for children with disabilities. Memories are an important element in psychological and religious development. The rituals of these holy seasons provide extraordinary opportunities to create such memories, be they the prayers and lighting of the Advent Wreath, decorating the home and Christmas tree, selecting, wrapping and unwrapping gifts, family gatherings, attending special masses and parish events, etc. Each of these can be adapted as needed to the benefit of children and adults with disabilities. Be sensitive to the needs of individuals related to their specific abilities, disability and age. Do not overwhelm or stress anyone by placing them in a situation that is beyond their comfort level but select opportunities for experiences of Advent and Christmas that will build their store of positive memories.



[Click here](#) to read an article by Kathie Snow from the December edition of her newsletter *Disability is Natural* in which she describes how she found ways to include and build memories for her young son with cerebral palsy. [Click here](#) to read the *Mental Health Ministries e-Spotlight-Winter-2010* by Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder. She acknowledges that, “With one in four families living with a family member with a mental illness, dealing with relatives and friends who do not understand a person’s illness can be difficult,” and provides resources for coping with the special challenges that come with the holidays. Whatever the disabling condition, make sure that everyone is included in the memory-rich traditions of Advent and Christmas celebrations.

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Papal Intentions

Pope Benedict XVI is dedicating the month of December to pray for those who are suffering, especially those who are alone, sick and elderly. Let us join him in prayer and add intentions for those whom we serve in ministry and their families.

NCPD's staff send our blessings and prayers for your ministry and personal needs. May the grace of the Advent and Christmas seasons fill your hearts and lives.



NCPD News and Notes

NCPD Activities

It's been quite a busy Fall here at NCPD! We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the Church in helping maintain and advance the needs and participation of persons with disabilities with parishes, dioceses and organizations. We thank you for your continued support and encouragement! In the past several months we have been involved in the following events and initiatives:

- On October 5 NCPD broadcast the webinar *Threats to the Lives of Persons with Disabilities, Part 1: Poor Prenatal Diagnosis of Lethal and Non-Lethal Conditions*. This webinar was made in partnership, or with the support of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, The Catholic University of America, Archdiocese of Washington, the National Council of Catholic Women, and the National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry. This was our first webinar before a live audience and we are happy that it was produced for such an important issue!
- On October 9th attended the *Affirming Life: Making a Difference Workshop* in the Diocese of Richmond.

- October 25, Steve Mikochik, Dr. Marie Hilliard, and Connie Rakitan (co-chair of the NCPD Council on Mental Illness) presented a keynote address and two workshops at the annual conference of the North Dakota Catholic Conference, devoted this year to disability concerns.

North Dakota Catholic Conference
Reconnecting the Bishops of Bismarck and Fargo

- October 25-26, conducted the pilot training of the Ministry Foundations project. Directors or designees from national organizations and selected diocesan directors attended and provided feedback to assist the committee in finalizing the curriculum design.
- October 28, two members of the NCPD Council on Mental Illness presented a one-day mental illness awareness workshop for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

- November 13, presented a plenary session with Karen Murray, board member and Disability Minister for the Archdiocese of Boston, at the annual national conference of the National Council of Catholic Women in Washington, DC.

national council of
catholic women

- November 16-18, the executive director and the director of diocesan relations observed the annual meeting of the U.S. Catholic bishops.
- November 19-20, participated in annual Mid-Atlantic regional meeting of diocesan disability directors from over a dozen dioceses.
- Sent out two additions of our two newsletters, the NCPD E-News and the MI Network News.

NCPD Board News

At its November 11-12 annual meeting in Washington, DC, the NCPD Board of Directors elected Susanna Herro to a one-year term as Chair-Elect. Ms. Herro also serves as the Chair of NCPD's Development Committee, and is a member of the Catholic Disability Foundation. She will work with the current NCPD Chair, Professor Stephen Mikochik for the coming year, and will assume the role of Chair at the end of the November 2011 board meeting for a three-year term. Ms. Herro is an attorney from Madison, WI, and has been active in pro-life and social justice work on the local and diocesan level. (Pictured from left are : Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Stephen Mikochik, Susanna Herro and Bishop Michael Driscoll.)



Also elected for a three-year term as a member of the Board was Doreen Engel, Director of Special Education for the Archdiocese of Washington. Ms. Engel (first on the right, front row) has served as a consultant to the NCPD Board Committee on Education, and has agreed to serve as Chair of the Committee. She was a presenter on the February 16, 2010 NCPD webinar on *Access in Catholic Education for Students with Disabilities: High Schools* ([click here](#) for archived of webinar).

Architect and NCPD Board member Debra Adams of Salt Lake City, UT (third from the right, front row) was elected Secretary of the NCPD Board to fill the vacancy left by Ms. Herro's election as Chair-Elect.

**Excerpts from a handout shared
with participants of the Ministry Foundations Pilot**

Tips for Creating Access and Welcome

When creating access, don't forget:

- Sanctuary access
- Large print and Braille resources
- Lighting
- Seating
- Parking
- Transportation

Still more things to remember when creating access:

- Door pressure
- Enhanced hearing devices
- Restrooms
- Meeting and event locations
- Does the parish have an atmosphere of community and welcome? Are there greeters? Do others also introduce themselves? Provide training.
- Don't be afraid about saying or doing the wrong thing. Be open, welcoming, and sincere. And listen. Anticipate that many people have been hurt and may initially respond in anger.
- Conduct a parish access survey—involve parishioners with disabilities and their families.
- Ask questions in your parish census on what is needed to facilitate participation. There is no need for a person to specify their disability.
- Include people with disabilities in all of parish life. Value their service as parish council members, in other ministries, and in liturgy as Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, musicians, etc.
- Consider ways to include students with disabilities in the parish school and programs of religious education. Consult with colleagues in other parishes, and Diocesan staff members. Utilize secular resources.
- Consider the connection between life issues and disability. Encourage people with disabilities to share their stories of living fully with a disability.
- Challenge the promotion of abortion, assisted suicide, or mercy killings to prevent or “overcome” disabilities. Question people who judge another person's “quality of life.” Help dispel fears of disability.
- Celebrate your successes.
- Have a service to bless your access efforts, such as a newly installed ramp or elevator.
- Advertise your accessibility, using access symbols on notices of events, in the parish bulletin, on the parish website, on the Archdiocesan website.

Three Good Gifts...

We thank you for your support of NCPD this year...and for all the work you do to nurture the faith life of Catholics with disabilities. Here are just three of the valuable resources NCPD provided this year, based on authentic Church teaching:

- Prenatal diagnosis of a disability or lethal condition: October webinar & toolkit
- Spiritual support for youth with mental illness: June webinar & toolkit
- Support for students with disabilities in Catholic secondary schools: February webinar & toolkit

IF these resources are valuable to you or someone you serve, consider supporting NCPD. Your contribution **this month** will enable NCPD *to plan for another year of resources, advocacy and leadership*. Click here for more information on how to support: <http://www.ncpd.org/support>.



Another Way to Support NCPD: Become a Friend of NCPD

Friends of NCPD contribute \$1000 annually to provide additional seed money for the projects listed above.

Friends Matching Opportunity: From now until December 31, your contribution at the Friends level of \$1000 will *be matched dollar for dollar* by a generous offer from the Catholic Disability Foundation.

In addition, your contribution of \$500 to \$1000 will be matched dollar for dollar, again thanks to the generous support of the Catholic Disability Foundation, **making you automatically a Friend of NCPD**.

Click here to be a Friend of NCPD: <http://www.ncpd.org/friends>.

THIS MONTH MATTERS: Your support **this month** can provide seed money to start these 2011 planned projects:

Autism Catechesis: NCPD's new Autism Task Force is reviewing catechetical curriculum models from around the country and will recommend and provide new resources for parents and catechists.

Wounded Warriors: NCPD will develop an online training seminar that will help parishes meet the spiritual needs of Catholic veterans who have a service-related disability, post traumatic stress or PTSD and their families.

Revised Roman Missal: NCPD's service to priests with low vision with its large print Sacramentary and lectionary project will be updated for the 2011 launch of the revised Roman missal.

Spanish Language Translations: NCPD's planned project to translate our resources will support Hispanic individuals with disabilities and family members.

NCPD.org: continual updating of Catholic disability resources and news to give you a "one stop shop."

Send it Forward...

We all know people we have served this year, who might be grateful to the help NCPD has provided. So...*Clip this section of the E-News and...send it forth...*

Donate
to NCPD

Diocesan Director/ Organizational News and Notes

Jonathan Sullivan, Director of Catechetical Ministries, Diocese of Springfield

Technology in ministry has become an area for which Jonathan is recognized. He recently provided a webinar entitled *Reaching Parishioners with Facebook*. A video of the webinar and links to additional resources are now available at his web site: <http://www.JonathanFSullivan.com>. He encourages us to feel free to share this video with others interested in starting a Facebook page for their parish, school, or ministry! Also, check out his work on <http://vimeo.com/sullijo> and his resource list for technology in ministry listed below under "Resources."

Marsha Rivas, Director of Equal Access Ministry, Diocese of Toledo

December's Inclusion Tip: *Positive Discipline for Children with Disability*. Thank you for all you do to teach Christian values to youngsters. [Click here](#) to open tip sheet.

Susan Perrault, Diocese of Green Bay, NCPD Board Member

The spirit of giving was experienced in the Diocese of Green Bay in a unique way. Read the inspiring *Press-Gazette* Nov. 28 article to see how the [Chancery Recycles an Elevator](#) for the benefit of Elizabeth Moore, a 19-year-old woman, who was paralyzed in a car accident last year.



Government/Legislative News and Notes

Social Security

The latest edition of the *Social Security Update* is posted online. You can read the newsletter in its entirety and sign up for email alerts by going to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/newsletter/>.

Resources

Resources for Technology in Ministry

Books

- [Screen Saved: Peril and Promise of Media in Ministry](#), by Dan Andriacco
- [Branding Faith: Why Some Churches and Nonprofits Impact Culture and Others Don't](#), by Phil Cooke (you can also read a [review of this book](#))
- [Treasures Holy and Mystical: A Devotional Journey for Today's Catholics](#), by Fr. Philip Neri Powell, OP

Church Documents

- [Inter mirifica \(Decree on Social Communication\)](#), Second Vatican Council
- [Evangelii nuntiandi \(Apostolic exhortation on evangelization\)](#), Pope Paul VI
- [Redemptoris missio \(Encyclical on evangelization\)](#), Pope John Paul II
- [Message for 44th World Day of Communications \(2010\)](#), Pope Benedict XVI
- ["Ubicumque et Semper" - Decree establishing Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization](#), Pope Benedict XVI



- [Social Media: Friend or Foe, Google or Hornswoggle?](#), Bishop Ron Herzog, USCCB Communication Committee
- [USCCB Social Media Guidelines](#)

Web Sites and Articles

- [What is a Facebook Page and Should Your Ministry Have One?](#)
- [The 8 Success Criteria For Facebook Page Marketing](#)
- [13 Simple Ways Of Increasing Your Facebook Likes](#)
- [Social Media Strategy: Allow for Control](#)

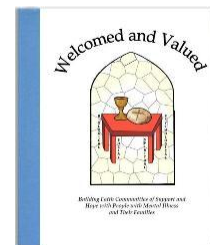
Large print Sacramentary and lectionary.

Through an agreement with the USCCB, the National Catholic Partnership on Disability is able to offer large print Sacramentaries and Lectionaries to priests and deacons with visual impairment. These large print materials are available in three sizes: font size 24, 34 and 44. [Click here](#) for more information.



Mental Illness Resources

[Welcomed and Valued](#) The DVD features in depth looks at people with mental illness and how they participate in parish life. (27 minute open captioned DVD).



Accompanying Resource Manual features

90+ pages of information, perspectives and tools to assist in the ministry with people with mental illness.

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, December 8-11, 2010

TASH.

35th Annual Conference

Embracing the Difference...It's Time

Sheraton Denver Hotel, Denver, CO

[Registration Information](#)

Thursday to Sunday, December 9-12, 2010

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans
National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry

Marching with the Saints

Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, LA

[Registration Information](#)

Thursday to Tuesday, January 6-11, 2011

Center for Ministry Development

Fifth International Fashion Me a People Gathering on Lifelong Faith Formation

Proclaim the Good News

The Hilton Disney Hotel, Orlando, FL

[Registration Information](#)

Sunday to Saturday, January 30-February 5, 2011

[Catholic Schools Week](#)

Friday to Sunday, February 18-20, 2011

Victorious Missionaries Winter Retreat

Sponsored by the Victorious Missionaries

Presenter: Fr. Larry Gillick, S.J.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Saturday, March 19, 2011

Archdiocese of Washington Department of Special Needs

Third Annual Conference on Faith, Deafness and Disabilities

Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Washington, DC

Contact Peg Kolm 301.853.4560

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Annual Archdiocesan Liturgy with Persons with Disabilities,

The Deaf Community, Family, Friends and Caregivers

Mass for Persons with Disabilities

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, PA

Contact Sr. Kathleen Schipani 215.587.3913

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