



NCPD E-News

January 2011

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Exciting News from the Xavier Society for the Blind

The Xavier Society for the Blind, founded in New York City in 1900, continues to provide Catholic religious and spiritual resources free of charge to individuals who are blind or have low vision in Braille and other alternative formats, including large print, audio CD, and most recently, digital formats. They also serve clients with other disabilities that impede an ability to read traditional print or hold written materials, such as dyslexia or spinal injuries.



The Xavier Society offers a large lending library that can be searched on their new interactive website at www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org. Among their offerings are religion textbooks, Mass Propers, and devotional materials.

Xavier Society's Executive Director, Kathleen Lynch, is pleased to announce that the revised translation of the *New American Bible*, soon to be released by the U.S. Catholic bishops (see article below), will be available in electronic, Braille, large print, or audio CD formats. The entire Bible, with or without

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commentary, can be requested by e-mailing info@xaviersocietyfortheblind.org or calling toll-free 800-637-9193. She also encourages visitors to check out the new website often to learn about upcoming special events and new initiatives, such as their special outreach program to veterans with vision loss. The goal of this program is to make veterans aware of the services available to them free of charge through the Xavier Society.

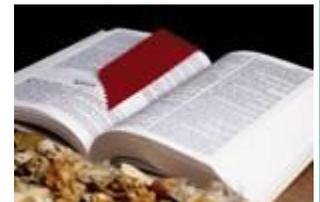
If you are a veteran or other individual who could benefit from the services of Xavier Society for the Blind, or have a friend or family member who could, please call Xavier or visit their website today to take advantage of all that they have to offer.



(Above: Janice Benton and Kathleen Lynch, Executive Director of Xavier Society for the Blind, conferring on formatting large print resources.)

News from the USCCB: Bible to be available in eBook format

Revised Edition of *New American Bible* Approved for Publication, Will Be Available in Variety of Formats March 9



WASHINGTON (January 6, 2011)—The *New American Bible*, revised edition (NABRE), the first major update to the *New American Bible* (NAB) translation in 20 years, has been approved for publication. Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, then president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), signed the canonical rescript approving publication on September 30, 2010. The NABRE will be available in a variety of print, audio and electronic formats on March 9, Ash Wednesday. For more information [click here](#).

NCPD News and Notes

Look for Survey from the NCPD Autism Task Force (ATF) On January 14, 2011 a link for a survey will be sent to diocesan disability ministry directors and to other diocesan and parish catechetical leaders who are members of national organizations, to gather information about the state of ministry to and with persons with autism spectrum disorder and their families in the U.S. The ministry

leaders are being asked to forward the link to parishes they serve in order to collect information from the largest group possible by January 31, 2011. The survey will also be on our website at www.ncpd.org. You are invited to fill out the survey there if you do not receive the link directly. The information will be added to their research and used by the ATF to determine what is available and what is still needed in this area of ministry. This will impact their work and affect the recommendations they make to NCPD's Board in October, 2011.

Loretta Garing faithfully served NCPD as a member of the Board of Directors from 1987-1995. We were sad to be notified of her death at the age of 68 on Dec. 22, 2010, at her residence in Belleville, Illinois, surrounded by her sister and friends. Loretta was a long-time member of Victorious Missionaries and Seeds of Hope. She loved to read, write and help others. Condolences may be offered at www.valhallagardensandfuneralhome.com.

Arizona Shooting

All of us at NCPD join the nation in grief over the shooting that occurred in Arizona this past weekend, and want to share with you links to articles which may assist all of us in gaining some understanding.

- [Mental Health America article](#)
- [NAMI article](#)

The NCPD Council on Mental Illness will be addressing the issue in their upcoming MI Network News. If you are not currently receiving this monthly electronic newsletter, please [click here](#) to sign-up.

NCPD Co-Sponsors Annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

Each February, NCPD joins with eleven other national Catholic organizations and five departments of the United States Conference of Catholic bishops to cosponsor the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG) in Washington, DC. This meeting brings together social justice and prolife leaders from throughout the United States to learn about current domestic and international issues of human life and dignity, and justice and peace. It also provides an opportunity to bring our concerns to our elected officials on Capitol Hill. **The meeting this year is February 13-16.** In an attempt to increase the diversity of participants, the planning committee has supported the Diversity Outreach Initiative (DOI), which seeks to identify leaders from diverse Catholic communities who will participate in the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering as a resource to:



- share Catholic social teaching and action with their community and the broader Church;
- cultivate strong relationships between social action offices, Catholic organizations, and diverse Catholic communities;
- advance the social mission of the Church; and
- expand the pool of resources available to those working in social ministry in the Church.

Financial assistance is available for applicants who wish to participate in the CSMG through the DOI. People with disabilities or from diverse cultural communities are encouraged to apply. To learn more about the DOI, visit <http://www.usccb.org/jphd/csmg/2011/diversity.shtml>.

If you plan to apply for the DOI please call Janice Benton before registering at (202) 529-2933.

For more information on CSMG [click here](#).

Voices of Faith

God is Great by Karen Jackson



Being the mom of a child with autism can have its challenges, to be sure, but I am constantly amazed by the wonderful blessings and lessons learned from my very special daughter.

For the last 10 years or so, each night we are able to sit at dinner together, our family of five; my husband Scott, sons Joseph and Jacob and daughter Samantha say a very common blessing over the food. We started this so that our children would be able to independently lead the blessing when they were young and it has since stuck around, even though our children are now 15, 13 and 8 years old respectively. The short familiar prayer goes like this:

“God is great; God is good, let us thank Him for our food. Amen.”

Our daughter Samantha, the one that is 13 years old and has autism, started to say parts of the prayer a few years ago. Even though she can say some words individually, she does not usually speak more than one or two words at a time and certainly is not conversational. But like many children on the spectrum, if she hears something enough, she will begin to repeat it. So when a few years ago, Samantha began to clearly pronounce, “A...men” we were thrilled. Then came some of the other words and before long she could say a good part of the prayer.

[READ MORE](#)



Karen Jackson is the Director of Faith Inclusion Network (FIN)

FIN is dedicated to helping faith communities develop inclusive ministries for people with disabilities and helping families affected by disability to find welcoming and accessible places to worship in South Hampton Roads, VA. For more information about the Faith Inclusion Network [click here](#).

(If you would like to submit a story to the **NCPD Voices of Faith** series, please [click here](#).)

How NCPD Serves the Church in 2011

([Click here](#) for full description)

Pro-life efforts	National Training Seminars (“Webinars”)
Parish Outreach to Veterans	NCPD Autism Task Force
Support for Priests with Low Vision: Large-Print Sacramentary/Lectionary Project	Additional Support for Diocesan Disability Directors and other Personnel
NCPD Council on Mental Illness	Spanish Language Translations

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. 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. **Become our first Friend of 2011!**

**Donate
to NCPD**

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

Diocesan Director/ Organizational News and Notes

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

Marsha says, “Happy New Year! Please check out the link for January’s Inclusion Tip: [Seasonal Affective Disorder](#). This is a “replay” tip sheet from 3 years ago. Post holidays seemed like a good time to refresh this topic!” Seasonal Affective Disorder, also known as SAD, is characterized by recurring periods of depression that accompany seasonal changes. It usually coincides with the coming of winter, but can also occur with the extreme heat and humidity of summer. Most people with SAD are women who first experience symptoms in their early twenties.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

has a Family Guide on Adolescent Depression that you might find a helpful resource. NAMI's family guide on *What Families Need to Know about Adolescent Depression* is a 41 page booklet published in its 2nd edition December 2010, and made available for free download by [clicking here](#).

Converging Roads conference on disabilities in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Converging Roads conferences have been building a culture of life in the Archdiocese of San Antonio by providing education in bioethics, health care, and Catholic teaching. Our next conference on “Caring for Persons with Disabilities” will feature Bishop Oscar Cantú for the keynote address, as well as several other distinguished speakers. This conference will be for health care professionals, catechists, educators, ministers and clergy, community leaders, and family members of people with disabilities.

The event runs Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 9:00 am – 4:45 pm. To see a flyer on the event, [click here](#).

Credits Available

CEUs



University of the Incarnate Word designates this event for a maximum of 6.0

Continuing Education Units. Contact Sr. Eilish Ryan for details, (210) 829-3871.

CNEs



“CNE contact hours available to nurses.”

CHRISTUS HomeCare is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Texas Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Catechetical Credit



6.0 Archdiocesan Catechetical Credit Renewal Hours available. Contact Cheryl

Sagan for approval and details prior to registering, (210) 734-2620.

Be Not Afraid, Charlotte co-founders Sandy Buck and Tracy Winsor are dedicated to supporting parents who have received a poor prenatal diagnosis and help them choose life, no matter how brief it may be. You will remember Tracy as a presenter in our October, 2010 webinar *Threats to the Life of People With Disabilities, Part I: Prenatal Diagnosis of Lethal or Non-lethal Conditions & Disability*. [Click here](#) to replay the webinar.

Sandy's parish, St. Mark Catholic Church in Huntersville, NC, featured her in their Fall 2010 parish electronic magazine. Use [this link](#) to see the very interesting article in *Good News*, Fall 2010. Keep up the good work Sandy and Tracy!



Jennifer Borek, NCPD Autism Task Force Secretary, and faculty member at the University of Notre Dame shares the following information regarding Teaching

Exceptional Children. [Click here](#) to view more information.

Teaching Exceptional Children: The TEC program is an 18 credit hour certificate program offered by the University of Notre Dame. Participants spend two weeks at Notre Dame during the summer and take the rest of their courses online. Credits can lead to an Indiana certificate for Teachers of Children with Exceptional Needs: Mild Interventions, which is reciprocal with many special education certificates in other states.



Government/Legislative News and Notes

Social Security

Social Security Update is posted online. Current online items include the following:

- **Your Clients May Qualify for New Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan**
- **Getting Income Verification Online is Easy**

You can read the newsletter in its entirety by going to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/newsletter/>.

IDAC Statement of Solidarity on Employment for People with Disabilities

NCPD serves on the steering committee of the Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition (IDAC). IDAC recently issued a sign-on Statement of Solidarity supporting the employment of people with disabilities. Dioceses and parishes are encouraged to sign on to the statement before October 2011, when IDAC will share the statement with members of Congress. ([excerpts below](#))

The law mandating equal access to employment for people with disabilities has failed to result in an increase in employment. Two-thirds of Americans with disabilities who want to work are unemployed or underemployed. That number has not changed since the ADA's passage. Title I of the ADA, the employment provisions, was enacted with the intent of removing barriers to employment for people with disabilities and of protecting disabled workers from discrimination.

Religious organizations signing onto this Statement of Solidarity fully understand that all people share a common humanity and that not having a job does irreparable harm to a person's self-esteem and makes it more difficult for someone to realize his or her potential. Understanding that poverty so often accompanies disability, and that a lack of employment may mean that adequate food, housing and medical care are not attainable, the undersigned religious organizations, denominations and faith groups commit to working within our organizations and with other groups to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

To sign the statement of support, [click here](#).

Resources

Job Opportunity

The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, seeks an experienced nonprofit professional with proven success in both disability and the arts fields, to serve as Executive Director of Very Special Arts.

http://www.kennedy-center.org/jobs/job_detail.html?opening_id=940

Six Easy, Nearly-Free Ways to Be More Disability-Accessible

Check out this link to see if it is something you can use! <http://www.blueavocado.org/node/593>

NCPD Resources

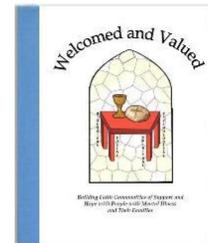
Large Print Sacramentary and Lectionary.

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

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.

Calendar of Events

<p>Sunday to Saturday, January 30-February 5, 2011</p> <p>Catholic Schools Week</p>	<p>Thursday, February 3, 2011 NCPD National Conference Call for Diocesan Directors of Disability Ministry 4-5 p.m. EDT Contact ncpd@ncpd.org for registration information</p>
<p>Friday, Feb. 5, 2011, 9am - 4:45pm</p> <p>“Caring for Persons with Disabilities” A Converging Roads Conference CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital-City Centre, San Antonio, TX Register at www.ConvergingRoads.com or contact Chris Stravitsch, Director, at 210.734.5137</p>	<p>Sunday to Wednesday, February 13 - 16, 2011 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering Click here for more information and to register.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Sunday, March 20, 2011 Archdiocese of Philadelphia Annual Archdiocesan Liturgy with Persons with Disabilities, The Deaf Community, Family, Friends and Caregivers <i>Mass for Persons with Disabilities</i> Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, PA Contact Sr. Kathleen Schipani 215.587.3913</p>	

[Click here](#) for archived versions of NCPD E-News.

NCPD E-NEWS is distributed by the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD), 415 Michigan Ave., NE, Suite 95, Washington, DC 20017; 202-529-2933, 202-529-2934 (tty), 202-529-4678 (fax).
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