



NCPD E-News

March 2011

Top News

[Autism Awareness Month](#)

[Spanish Translation of Autism Survey](#)

[Pflaum Publishing: Sacramental Prep Accommodations for Special Needs](#)

[Monthly Inclusion Tip](#)

[NCCL: Asperger Tips for Teachers](#)

[NAfIM launches new web site](#)

[NCPD News & Notes](#)

Spanish Autism Survey

NCPD Out & About

Body & Soul Update

[Diocesan/Partner News and Notes](#)

NAfIM launches new website.

Special needs Health Care for Latino and African American Parents

Washington's Third Annual Conference

March's Inclusion Tip

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month **What We Can Do in Parishes and Dioceses to Raise Awareness About Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

1. Include positive articles about people with intellectual and developmental (IDD) and other disabilities in bulletins, newsletters and newspapers on a regular basis, but especially feature them this month.
2. Make sure parishes and the diocese tap the gifts of people with IDD and other disabilities for ministries and services, but especially feature them this month in these visible roles. (Remember, it is all about awareness this month.)
3. Begin a new initiative this month in your parish or diocese that addresses people with IDD and other disabilities. March will pass, but the presence and gift of people with IDD and other disabilities continues on.

NCCL Article on Asperger's

St. Patricks Celebrations in Rockville Center

[Legislation/Government](#)

FEMA's Public Alert Systems Expanding

Follow-up on Three Pro-Life Bills

[Resources](#)

Special Needs Suggestions with Pflaum's *Together in Jesus* Sacramental Prep Series

NCPD Resources

[Calendar of Events](#)

Archived E-News

[Click here](#)

Lenten Prayer Services:

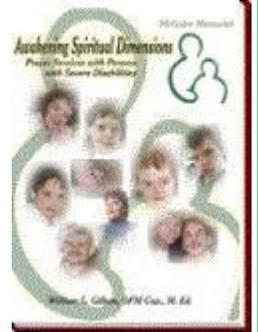
A tremendous season to employ symbolic-catechesis in our ministry.



There are a variety of methods that can be used to teach and pray with person who have disabilities. Many children and adults use their reasoning powers such as question and answer, discussion and deduction. Many of those we serve in disability ministry need a more sensory-based and contemplative approach

that attempts to awaken the Spirit of God within them. As stated by Fr. Bill Gillum in his book *Awakening Spiritual Dimensions*, "The reality of God is not learned so much by their cognitive skills, but rather by way of experience and celebration. God's presence seems to intuitively arise from within their hearts."*

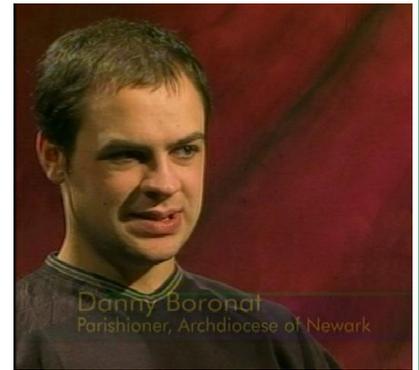
Lent is a sacred time for all in the Church to deepen our awareness of connection with God. Let us relish in this opportunity to facilitate that great gift of Lent in the hearts and lives of all those we serve with disabilities.



**Awakening Spiritual Dimensions, Prayer Services with Persons with Severe Disabilities*, William L. Gillum, OFM Cap., M.Ed., AuthorHouse, 2007 www.authorhouse.com, 1-800-839-8640.

April is Autism Awareness Month.

NCPD calls on parishes and dioceses to observe this commemorative month, as well. The NCPD website has resources for this observation such as Prayers of the Faithful and a bulletin announcement to support your ministry at <http://www.ncpd.org/ministries-programs/specific/autism>. The NCPD Autism Task Force (Task Force) joins with others across our nation to support efforts of dioceses and parishes in their ministry to and with people with autism and their families.



N.B. Changes and additions were made to the page and its documents. Please click below to go to the Autism page with its updated and new documents. The links to documents sent in an email on February 15 will no longer function for this page.

[CLICK HERE](#)

NCPD News and Notes

Spanish Translation of the Autism Survey



NCPD is excited to announce that our Autism Task Force has made the Autism Survey of parishes and dioceses throughout the United States available in Spanish to elicit input from Spanish speakers in our Church. Details were sent to diocesan disability directors and others with a request that they distribute a cover letter in Spanish and the link to the translated Autism Survey to those in Hispanic Ministry in their dioceses. **This survey is now available in Spanish through March 31, 2011. See the link on NCPD website at <http://www.ncpd.org/specific/autism/spanishsurvey> for the Spanish survey and for a letter in Spanish or in English inviting people to**

participate in the survey. Remember: If you have filled out the survey in English, do not fill it out again in Spanish.

NCPD Out and About

Jan and Nancy, sometimes individually, sometimes together, will be in Indiana, West Virginia, Ohio, Seattle, Portland, Phoenix, Atlanta and beyond between now and June for Regional Meetings, conferences, meetings, and catechetical gatherings. We look forward with great eagerness to serving you and meeting with a lot of you face to face during those visits. It is exciting to leave the confines of a national office to rub shoulders (spend time) with the front-liners in ministry.

Update—BODY & SOUL: Diana & Kathy

You will remember this beautiful documentary www.dianaandkathy.com that was featured in the E-News about a year ago, on the inspiring, yet every-day-lives of its key characters. Film star Diana Braun, who played herself in the film, will be traveling to Uzbekistan for a screening of the film at the American documentary Showcase sponsored by the University Film & Video Association.



Diana, a disability rights activist and a woman with Down syndrome, will accompany the award winning film's creator, Alice Elliott of Welcome Change Productions. As they travel from March 10th-20th they will keep a video diary and blog of their experiences on the trip. This blog will be available to US disability groups, blogs, documentary film groups, partners and fans to follow along as they travel from New York City to Uzbekistan and back.

- Read the blog and watch their video diary at www.uzbekadventure.wordpress.com
- Get on [Facebook](#)! Ask questions, post comments and say “hi” to Diana! (Diana will be personally checking the Body & Soul page and responding to comments!)
- Add the blog to your own website or blog through their RSS feed (www.uzbekadventure.wordpress.com/feed) Alice and Diana have said, “We want to hear from you and share our awesome adventure!”

**Donate
to NCPD**

How NCPD Serves the Church in 2011

MORE DETAILS

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

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 a Friend in 2011!**

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

Diocesan Director/ Organizational News and Notes

National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry (NAfIM) launches new web site



Take some time to delve into this rich source of supports that you will find helpful in your ministry. Featured is the current Online Journal and an article, [*The Demands of Human Dignity*](#) by Rev. Earl K. Fernandes, S.T.D., Dean, Mount Saint Mary's Seminary of the West. It is a comprehensive article about strategies for considering the subject of human sexuality and persons with disabilities within a Catholic seminary curriculum.

Also featured are Tip Sheets and other Resources. [Tipsheets](#) found at this link, will bring you to many free downloadable resources. New material added to the website under 'Federal Benefits' are reports on 2010 health care legislation and the pending ABLE Act. Also new under the headings of 'Catechesis', 'Individualizing Lesson Plans' and 'Sacraments' are materials by Mary Pat Carter with Marilyn E. Bishop that have been reproduced with the permission of the University of Dayton and are available for your download and use.

The ['Resources'](#) link leads to a list of [dioceses](#) with a special interest in people with developmental disabilities, the [support network of NAfIM members](#) who are willing to share their experiences, and a list of [helpful websites](#). **Congratulations and thanks to NAfIM for this very helpful ministry tool!**

Nita Grignol, Director, Office for Catholics with Disabilities, Diocese of Richmond

Nita and a group there are asking interesting questions these days, like “What is it like for Latino and African American parents to find quality health care for their children with special health care needs?” “How can we respond with more cultural sensitivity?” Nita will host a presentation and group exercise on these topics. For more information click below.

[READ MORE](#)



Peg Kolm, Archdiocese of Washington (ADW), Department of Special Needs Ministries

ADW is announcing their *Third Annual Conference on FAITH, DEAFNESS AND DISABILITIES: Creating Communities Where All Can Lead*. It will include an array of parish, community, and clergy/religious workshops, including some 20 workshops concerning the spiritual and social service needs of persons who are Deaf or disabled. This day-long event will be held on Saturday, March 19. Simultaneous Spanish and ASL translation will be provided. For more information, a flyer is available below.

[FLYER](#)

Marsha Rivas, Diocese of Toledo offers March’s Inclusion Tip on Pastoral Visits with Someone with Dementia.

Dementia is an umbrella term that covers many different diagnoses with the common thread of memory loss. Memory loss leads to confusion, anxiety and potential isolation. A parishioner may show signs of dementia by coming to church on the wrong day or time, or behaving oddly at Mass. If they feel uncomfortable with people’s reaction and their own confusion, they may stop coming to Mass and parish activities. Now is the time to accelerate parish outreach to avoid losing the connection with these faithful parishioners who now have a greater need for full participation in the Sacraments and membership in the parish community...click below for more information.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Lee Nagel, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL)

shares this from his newsletter, CL Weekly. It is called, “Inside the Heads of Students With Asperger Syndrome”

In 1997, Dan Coulter’s 14-year-old son Drew was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome (AS). Dan, himself, was diagnosed in 2009. From years of challenges—and triumphs—Dan Coulter has first-hand knowledge of what it’s like to have Asperger’s, and believes teachers are in a unique position to help kids with AS break through the walls that hide their talent and potential. Dan wrote an article for YES! Magazine about his

experience that will help you understand what he and his son have and are going through at: <http://www.yesmagazine.org/for-teachers/teacher-stories>.

He also offered several tips at the end of his article for teachers, some of which I believe are also applicable for catechists.

Tips for Teachers

1. Discover the strengths of a student with Asperger Syndrome and incorporate them into his class work as motivation.
2. Take active steps to prevent bullying. Students with Asperger Syndrome tend to be easy targets and are frequently teased or harassed.
3. Offer clear instructions and assignments and check periodically to ensure a student with Asperger Syndrome understands them. Students with AS tend to take things literally, have difficulty with implied meanings, and have difficulty asking for help.
4. Establish a safe place and a safe person (such as a counselor) that a student can seek out to calm himself if he gets overwrought.
5. Accommodate a student's sensitivities. Some people with Asperger Syndrome are hyper-sensitive to touch or bright lights or loud noises. Take this into account in classroom seating and activities.



Mary Anne Russo, Diocese of Rockville Centre

On March 5, an early St. Patrick's Day celebration to beat all celebrations was enjoyed by adults with disabilities from a range of residences, including several homes operated by diocesan Catholic Charities, and some who live with their families. It was a collaborative venture of the diocesan Office of new Evangelization and the Office of Faith Formation's ministry with persons with disabilities that was filled with good music, good food, and good prayer. Msgr. Joseph De Grocco, professor of liturgy and director of liturgical formation at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington led the prayer service and student volunteers from campus ministry at Adelphi University, Stony Brook University, Hofstra University, and the youth group from Holy Name of Mary church in Valley Stream helped run the event.



Mary Anne recounted that it was a great experience of Church, because of the diversity of those who attended. It truly was an example of :

"The Church, the Body of Christ, is both the principal agent of catechesis and the primary recipient of catechesis. In fact, the life of the Church is a kind of catechesis itself. Every individual has the responsibility to grow in faith and to contribute to the growth in faith of the other members of the Church." (National Directory for Catechesis, #47)

Government/Legislative News and Notes

FEMA Continues Efforts to Include People with Disabilities

From an article by Jennifer Simpson in the March, American Association of People with Disabilities Newsletter.

On Friday February 4, 2011, AAPD's Jenifer Simpson attended a briefing and update by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) on the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).



IPAWS is the next generation of the Emergency Alert System that most of us know via radio and TV announcements when they say "this is a test of the emergency alert system." IPAWS, however, will integrate these TV and radio announcements with messages on cell phones, through Internet services, via weather alert and local systems such as AMBER, electronic road signage and "reverse 911" systems. The aim is to be able to send "one message over more devices to more people for maximum safety" using different technologies. To read more and/or comment, click below.

[MORE DETAILS](#)

Bishops Support Three Bills to Strengthen Protections for Life and Conscience



Last month we reported on three bills that are in congress that impact pro-life and conscience protection issues. Updates regarding these bills are below as reported from www.govtrack.us. Click on the bill number for more information.

[H.R. 358](#): The Protect Life Act: The House Committee on Energy and Commerce recommended it be considered by the House as a whole on February 11, 2011.

[H.R. 361](#): The Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (ANDA) was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on February 1, 2011.

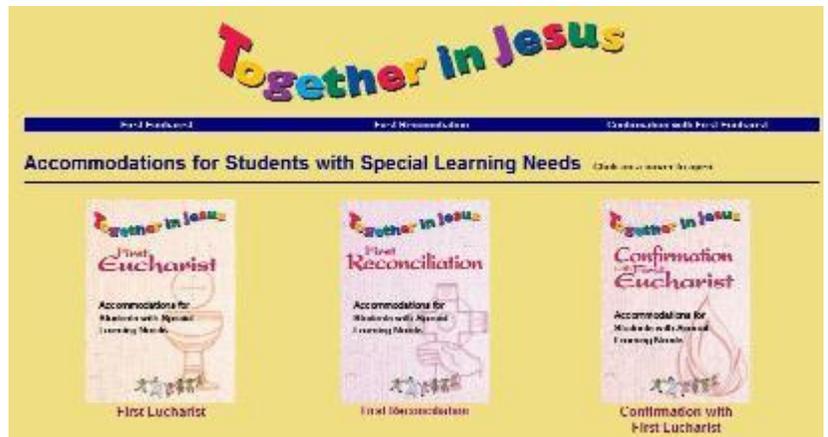
[H.R. 3](#): No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act: On Mar 3, 2011 the House Judiciary recommended it be considered by the House as a whole.

Resources

Good for you, Pflaum Publishing!

Pflaum Publishing has included suggested accommodations for students with special learning needs, for their *Together in Jesus* sacramental preparation materials, on their website. This is something new to their website and is listed under Guides and Manuals section on the main webpage at www.pflaum.com. Click on the link below to reach it directly:

[CLICK HERE](#)



NCPD Resources

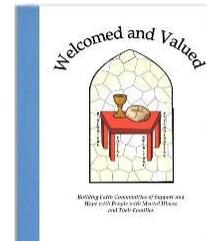
Large Print Sacramentary and Lectionary.

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

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 below to sign-up for the Network--membership is free. To view previous issues click on the logo.

MI Network News
The Monthly Newsletter of the National Catholic Network on Mental Illness

[Sign-up!](#)

Calendar of Events

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

Sunday, March 20, 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

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Workshop: Including Children with Special Needs in Faith Formation
Nesconset, NY
Contact Mary Russo at marusso@drvc.org

Sunday April 10, 2011

Bethlehem House' 25th Anniversary
St Anselm's Abbey, Washington, DC

Bethlehem House opened in September, 1986 to provide a residential Christian community for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mass begins at 10:30 AM followed by brunch and silent auction.

For more information contact Kathy Healy at 202-363-6631 or Dolores Wilson at bhmdw@hotmail.com

Sunday April 10, 2011

That All May Worship Conference-2011

Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center, Virginia Beach, VA
An afternoon conference to promote awareness, provide support and celebrate the gifts of people with disabilities in our FAITH communities.
Sponsored by the [Faith Inclusion Network](#)

FLYER

Tuesday April 26 - Thursday April 28
NCEA 2011 Convention & Expo
New Orleans, LA

MORE DETAILS

**Thursday April 28 to Sunday May 1, 2011
HEC Retreat Weekend**

HEC (Handicapped Encounter Christ) has been serving the spiritual needs of adults with special needs on Long Island for over 25 years. The Retreat Weekend for adults with physical and/or developmental challenges will be held this year at Camp Alvernia. Contact Michele at 516-420-1207 or email mrbarone@verizon.net.

**Sunday, May 22, 2011
Diocese of Rockville Centre Liturgy
Celebrating the Gifts of Persons with
Special Needs**

St. Frances de Chantel Church, Wantagh, NY
Reservations are needed for this event. See website at <http://www.drvc-faith.org/specialNeedsEvents.html>

**Monday, May 23 to Thursday May 26
NCCL 75th Annual Conference and
Exposition**

Atlanta, GA

[FLYER](#)

**Thursday August 18 to Sunday August 21
Faith and Light 40th Anniversary
Pilgrimage**

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL

[FLYER](#)

**Wednesday October 5 - Friday October
14**

Medjugorje Pilgrimage for the Deaf
Philadelphia or Detroit Departure
with Fr. Mike Depcik of Detroit and
Sr. Kathleen Schipani of Philadelphia 215-
587-3913 v/tty or srschipa@adphila.org

[Click here for flyer.](#)

[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).

Contents may be freely reproduced; a credit line is appreciated.

Visit our Website: www.ncpd.org

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

NCPD
415 Michigan Ave. NE
Suite 95
Washington, District of Columbia 20017
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

