



NCPD E-News

June-July 2011

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At their Bellevue, Washington, spring meeting the Bishops voted on their new statement opposing the legalization of physician-assisted suicide, like in the law passed in 2008 in Washington State.

The document, [To Live Each Day with Dignity](#), reviews longstanding Church teaching



on the life and dignity of the human person, and how this teaching relates to a new threat to life, physician-assisted suicide,

a real threat to persons who are vulnerable such as those with a disability. It marks the first time the full body of bishops has issued a statement devoted to this issue.

We are proud that NCPD Board member Dorothy Coughlin presented her views at the USCCB's press briefing following the vote. Her comments and the NCPD press release are on the front page of www.ncpd.org.

On the same evening, NCPD Board Chair, Stephen Mikochik, was interviewed about the unique challenges this kind of state legislation poses to persons who have a disability, on the national television news show, EWTN's *The World Over*, hosted by Raymond Arroyo (for show times and encore broadcasts [click here](#), or visit this [youtube link](#) to view the episode.)





Steve Mikochik,
NCPD Board Chair

On Friday morning, June 17, Professor Mikochik was interviewed by Teresa Tomeo on *Catholic Connections* AM radio show.

On Friday at 5:30 p.m. ET, the Executive Director of NCPD was also interviewed on Ave Maria Radio's program, *Kresta in the Afternoon*. Al Kresta's show is broadcast via EWTN Global Catholic Radio.

Lastly, the bishops' statement will be the basis for a national online webinar sponsored by NCPD on September 20, 2011 for diocesan staff, schools and parishes across the country entitled *Threats to the Lives of People with Disabilities, Part II: Physician-assisted Suicide* (see below in NCPD News and Notes).

Click below to see the following documents.

The Bishops statement, [To Live Each Day with Dignity](#)

The USCCB [Press Release](#)

The NCPD [Press Release](#).

[Comments affirming the Bishops statement](#) at press briefing by Portland Diocesan Disability Minister Director and NCPD Board Member, Dorothy Coughlin

NCPD's [2008 Board Statement](#) Against Physician Assisted Suicide [Reflection](#) by NCPD board member Karen Murray



Fr. Sheehan of the Xavier Society for the Blind presents the bishops with Volume 1 of 45 of the New American Bible in Braille .

Earlier at the bishops meeting NCPD co-hosted a breakfast for bishops, along with leaders from other Catholic disability organizations, (NCOD, NAFIM, and Xavier Society for the Blind), and shared information about access to faith for Catholics who are Deaf or disabled, as they impact the strategic plans and priorities of our bishops.

16 bishops were in attendance, and were greeted by Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, NCPD's Episcopal Moderator, and Bishop Michael Driscoll, NCPD's longtime board member. We thank Cardinal DiNardo and Bishop Driscoll for sharing with their brother bishops their commitment to people with disability and the impact NCPD has made on the Church.



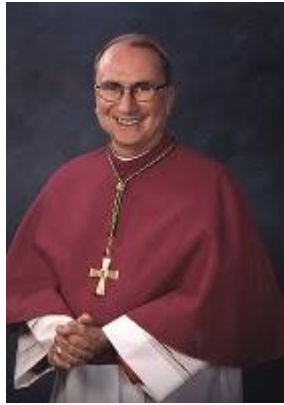
Bishop John Brungardt of Dodge City describes how NCPD helped the Diocese of Wichita, KS.

NCPD News and Notes

NCPD Urgently Requests Your Help

The Bishops wrote in a budget resolution letter to the Senate on May 5 that “Access to affordable, life-affirming health care remains an urgent national priority. We recognize that the rising costs of Medicare, Medicaid and other entitlement programs need to be addressed, but we urge that the needs of the poor, working families and vulnerable people be protected. Cost cutting proposals should not simply shift health care costs from the federal government to the states or directly to beneficiaries.”

Your help is urgently needed to prevent radical Medicaid cuts from being made in the Federal Budget. **NCPD will have the opportunity to address our concerns with Congressional leaders in mid-July** to help communicate to Congress the need for Medicaid services by people with disabilities. **We need to go to Congress with examples of real people whose lives will be severely affected** by the loss of housing, medical and social services they and their families depend upon, if the radical cuts currently included in the budget process become reality.



Bishop Stephen E. Blaire, of Stockton, California, chair of the Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice

If you know of someone who receives Medicaid benefits we ask **you to request that they write a letter to their Congressional leaders (links provided below) identifying the real benefits they receive from Medicaid and the hardship that would occur if they lose them.** Send a copy of that letter to NCPD by the end July 5 so that we can take it with us to the Hill when we meet with Congress in mid July. As one mother we know has already said, "With the work and social program cuts my son has already experienced due to budgeting issues, if they continue with the radical cuts to Medicaid which covers his medical and remaining programs, the only thing left for him to do is die."

LINKS

Click Links button for contact information on your Congressional leaders.

For good summaries on Medicaid see		For good summaries on the Medicaid cuts at hand see	
Families USA	Kaiser Family websites	USCCB letter	NAMI webpage.
CLICK HERE	READ MORE	PRESS RELEASE	CLICK HERE

FLYER

Registration opens on August 1 for NCPD's three upcoming webinars. Check www.ncpd.org for links.

***Symbolic Catechesis
and Other Tools in Catechetical Ministry***

Tuesday, September 13, 2011; 2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT

Presenters:

Fr. Bill Gillum, OFM Cap., M.Ed., Director of Pastoral Care,
McGuire Memorial
Mary Mirrione, National Director, National Association of the
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



Moderator: Lee Nagel, Executive Director, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership



***Threats to the Lives of People with Disability, Part II:
Physician-Assisted Suicide***

Tuesday, September 20, 2011; 4:00-5:00 p.m. EDT

Presenters:

Richard Doerflinger, Associate Director, United States Conference of
Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Fr. Dan Mindling, OFM Cap, Theologian, Academic Dean,
Mt. St. Mary's Seminary
Sr. Janice McGrane, S.S.J., author, national presenter, disability advocate

Moderator: Jerry Freewalt, Program Director, Office of Social Concerns,
Diocese of Columbus

***How can we help?
Parish Support for Veterans and Their Families***

Tuesday, October 18, 2011; 4:00-5:00 p.m. EDT

Presenter:

Fr. Rick Curry, S.J., Chaplain-in-Residence, Founder, Academy for
Veterans, Georgetown University

Moderator:

Peg Kolm, Coordinator, Office for Ministry with Persons with Disabilities,
Archdiocese of Washington



NCPD Council on Mental Illness Celebrates it's 5th Anniversary

The NCPD Board recommits to its support of the mission of the Council.

[READ MORE](#)



Benefits of Being an Inclusive Parish

- Adding numbers to the lists of potential volunteers for parish activities.
- Adding potential candidates to the list for liturgical ministries.
- Adding potential volunteers to provide one-to-one support for new parishioners with disabilities who come to the parish in the future.
- Adding candidates for parish council, board of education, and other official bodies of the parish.

- Adding to those from the parish who could be qualified individuals to ordination, to consecrated life, and to full-time, professional service in the Church.
- Build a parish community more reflective of the Body of Christ.
- Keep families active and engaged in the parish, rather than leaving due to lack of access and welcome.
- Help ensure that Catholics with disabilities are nourished in their faith, and able to receive the Sacraments.
- This list could go on and on, for sure!

[Donate to NCPD](#)

Timeless Reflections

[MORE DETAILS](#)

As the activity described in this E-News attest, NCPD staff and Board has been hard at work defending the lives of people with disabilities and working for their meaningful participation he life of faith.

*Please don't miss your chance...*to support this “mighty” ministry, so-called by our Episcopal Moderator, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and Chair of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Did you know? NCPD generates respected resources *without any direct funding from the Church.*

[CLICK HERE](#)

to make an online donation that can transform your parish, school, school of religion and community. NCPD provides access to faith for persons with disabilities.

**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

June's Inclusion Tip: *Service Animals*

from Marsha Rivas, Diocese of Toledo's Director, Equal Access Ministries

Welcoming service animals is just another way parishes make the Sacraments, and therefore Christ, accessible to all.

TIP SHEET

Learn what your community can do to encourage parents to carry to term.

Be Not Afraid-Charlotte to Hold First Annual Service Providers Conference.

The teachings of the Catholic Church regarding the dignity of every human life are not only intended to inform parents who might choose to abort following a prenatal diagnosis, but also to inform the response to these babies who are our most vulnerable unborn. It is the responsibility of the Church to provide pastoral care and works of mercy to those in crisis. Join us to learn what your community can do to encourage parents to carry to term. To receive regular email updates, please email benotafraidnc@live.com. To be added to our conference mailing list, see details in the [Calendar](#) below.



At the Papal Award backstage before the ceremony.
with the Diocesan Centenary Awards.

Disability Ministry Pioneer Kitty Kruse Receives Papal Award

From Marsha Rivas, Disability Minister of the Toledo Diocese

Exciting news! Kitty Kruse (aka Catherine) is one of only 11 people in the Diocese of Toledo to receive a Papal Award for her lifelong ministry with people with disabilities and for establishing the diocesan office of Equal Access Ministries. This is a wonderful honor for Kitty and for the Office!

These Pontifical Honors were presented on Sunday, June 12 at the Pentecost Vespers in the Cathedral at 5pm along

Congratulations can be sent to Kitty c/o Marsha Rivas at:
1933 Spielbusch Avenue
Toledo, OH 43604-5360

Portland Disability Ministry Director Presents at Press Briefing at Bishops Meeting

Following the USCCB Bishops meeting where the statement regarding physician assisted suicide, *To Live Each Day with Dignity* was approved 99-1, Portland resident Dorothy Coughlin presented a reflection on the issue as it relates to people with disabilities. Click button for the full reflection.

READ MORE

"As a resident of Oregon, the first state to legalize assisted suicide, and a family member of a person with profound developmental disability, I am acutely aware of how the passage of physician-assisted suicide has had an adverse impact on the lives of people with disabilities."

Reflects on the Life of Mattie Stepanek

from Peg Kolm, Coordinator Office for Ministry of People with Disabilities, Archdiocese of Washington

Mattie Stepanek, the late poet and author, was our local hero...surviving the storms of his rare muscular dystrophy for nearly 14 years, and publishing many bestselling books of poetry before his death in 2004. His deep Catholic spirituality led the late Cardinal Hickey to call Mattie a "messenger." His mother, Jeni Stepanek, has written a biography of her son, which takes its own place on the New York Times bestseller list. **"Messenger: The Legacy of Mattie J.T. Stepanek and Heartsongs" appeared on the NY Times e-book bestseller list June 5, 2011.** The memoir details Mattie's earliest years through his final days of life.

Oprah Winfrey called the book "a wonderful story" about "her guy," whom she said was a "messenger for our times." *Messenger* is the last book to ever be held up by Oprah during the 25 year run of the **Oprah Winfrey Show**. The book has also been featured on Good Morning America, was named **Larry King's 'Book of the Month Pick,'** and selected as one of **Soul Salon International's 'Top Ten Books of the Year.'** *Messenger* is the full story of Mattie – "the poet, the peacemaker, and the philosopher who played."

More information about the late poet and author is at www.mattieonline.com

Editor's note: The cause is being brought forward for the canonization of Mattie Stepanek. Watch for updates.



First time ever Options Students Named Prom King and Queen.

from Chris Desmarais, Director Options Program, Paul VI Catholic High School (used with permission)

[READ MORE](#)

As the final weeks of school approached at Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax, there was increasing anticipation of one of the most unforgettable nights in high school: prom. It was an especially unforgettable night for seniors Evan Patchett and Tasha Adkins-Blanch, who were

the first Options students ever to be named prom king and queen. The Options Program integrates students with intellectual disabilities into regular classrooms.

Getting Creative for Catechesis of Children with Autism

Gretchen R. Crowe, Catholic Herald Senior Staff Writer (used with permission)

No ‘one size fits all’ curriculum for catechesis of children with autism means parents and catechists must find creative solutions. This article reflects some of the diverse approaches used. Gretchen’s article is provided in full at the "Read More" button.

[READ MORE](#)

[BLOG](#)

Gretchen also put together a blog as a sort of “catch-all” for things she simply didn’t have space to put in the “dead tree edition.” Hopefully you’ll find this interesting/helpful as well.

Government/Legislative News and Notes

Learn about this issue—Cuts to Medicaid

Become informed about the negative impact Medicaid can have on services for people with disabilities.

Inform your Senators what you think on this issues as soon as possible.

[For more information click here.](#)

Resources

Jesus-Style Recruiting by Chris Weber

www.vdpublishing.net.

This book is for every parish leader. You will be thrilled that at last someone has addressed recruiting volunteers from those who bake the cookies to catechetical leaders in a way that really works. Some DDs have purchased one for every parish. Read what Kathy Hendricks says in her blog.

<http://www.vdpublishing.net/BLOGS.html>

Roman Missal, Third Edition

NCPD will provide the large print Revised Roman Missal by Fall, 2011, in size 24, 34 and 44 fonts, for priests and deacons who are visually impaired. To request one [click here](#).



- Archdiocese of Washington now has an [ASL resource](#) on the Revised Roman Missal.

NCPD Resources

To see the resources available from NCPD click the following button.

[CLICK HERE](#)

National Catholic Network on Mental Illness - Sign Up Now

[Sign-up!](#)

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

Calendar of Events

**Thursday August 18 to
Sunday August 21**
Faith and Light 40th Anniversary Pilgrimage
National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows,
Belleville, IL

[FLYER](#)

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Registration opens August 1st.

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NCPD Webinar

Registration opens August 1st.

[FLYER](#)

October 20 and 21, 2011

Developing Local Service:

The BNA Model of Care

First Annual Service Providers' Conference

St. Gabriel Catholic Church

Charlotte, NC

benotafraidnc@live.com

[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).

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