

*40 Years of  
Faith & Light*



# NCPD E-News

September 2011

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## **40 Years of Faith and Light**

by Dolores Wilson, Vice-Coordinator, USA EAST  
<http://www.faithandlightusaeast.org/>

Faith and Light began in 1971 at a Pilgrimage in Lourdes, France during Holy Week. Jean Vanier and Marie-Helene Mathieu are the co-founders. This Pilgrimage began as a celebration of the lives of our friends with developmental disabilities because of the isolation and rejection felt by a family in France who took their two sons to Lourdes. Camille and Gerard,



Dolores Wilson and members of *Faith and Light*

parents of Thaddee and Loic who were born with disabilities that prevented them from walking, talking or reading came home and met with Marie Helene and Jean Vanier to tell their story. Jean Vanier said "This can never happen again."

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And so, a two-year planning of a major Pilgrimage of world-wide proportions happened in 1971 attended by 12,000 people from 18 countries who discovered the true meaning of what it is to be welcomed and accepted as beloved of God.



*Faith and Light* members share a laugh.

Vanier has said that Faith and Light is a “miracle and a “mystery”- truly guided by the Spirit of Love who wanted to show the world the gifts of peace, friendship and joy that our friends with intellectual disabilities demonstrate. Those of us who have been a part of Faith and Light for many years have experienced the spirituality of our

friends which has the power to change our world by changing us. We are and have been changed by the powerful experience of COMMUNITY and RELATIONSHIPS.

## NCPD News and Notes

### Three Upcoming NCPD Webinars on Symbolic Catechesis, Physician-Assisted Suicide and Veterans



Symbolic Catechesis and Other Tools in Catechetical Ministry for People with Disabilities

**Still time to sign up for the September 13, 20 and October 18 NCPD Webinars.**

[Click here to register.](#)

Click our Affiliate Dioceses button on the front page of our website at [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org). If your (arch)diocese is listed as a 2010-2011 Affiliate or a 2011-2012 Affiliate, you can attend the September webinars FREE OF CHARGE.



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

[Click here to register.](#)



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

[Click here to register.](#)

Free attendance of the October and January-June 2012 webinars requires 2011-2012 Affiliate status.

As always, if you are staff, a member or constituent of a webinar's Partner Organization, you attend free of charge. Others are charged a fee of \$45.00 per logged-in computer. Group viewing is encouraged!

### Parish Annual Pre-program checklist for disability ministry:

- Review your parish religious education registration forms to determine if they clearly show the intent of your program to include students with a range of disabilities.
- Plan your strategies and the timing for staffing your program with volunteers.
- Identify topics, times and locations for group inservice and for individual inservice as needed for staff.
- Name opportunities for inclusion of students with more severe disabilities in special program activities with their non-disabled peers (children's liturgies, Christmas program plays, service projects, etc...).
- Check your adaptive technique resources to support catechists who will be asked to adapt basal text curriculum for use by students with a variety of special needs.
- Explore your parish rosters for individuals who have special professional skill sets that you might tap as volunteers or consultants and cultivate relationships with them (special education teachers, classroom teachers, psychologists, etc...).

- Check with your (Arch)diocesan disability ministry contact person to make yourself familiar with the resources and inservice opportunities with which they are prepared to support your program with.
- Identify allies for disability ministry in your parish and establish a committee that can meet monthly throughout the year so you can support and work creatively together to achieve your goals. They could be anyone. A catechetical leader, parent, pastoral ministry staff member, catechist, special education teacher, adult with disability and yourself would make a terrific committee.
- Check out the NCPD website for the Resources link for past webinars that are now available in DVD/CD kits that you can use for inservice. One set focuses on parish catechesis for students with disabilities in three webinars. Another set addresses inclusion in Catholic elementary and high schools in three webinars. Another set addresses access to the liturgical life of the parish in three webinars.
- Be aware of our Sept. 13 webinar on how symbolic catechesis and other catechetical tools can be used successfully with students with the full range of disabilities and with those who have no known disabilities at all.

## Helpful Diocesan Resources from Opening Doors to set up and administer your program:

**1. Identifying and Working with Advisors** Advisors greatly assist the diocesan director or other personnel in developing and carrying out the goals and objectives of this ministry. Often voluntary advisory *committees, coalitions or commissions* are established to provide advice and counsel. It is important to remember that all of the activities of such bodies must function harmoniously within the diocesan structure and be responsive to the goals and mission of the Ordinary.

[READ MORE](#)

**2. Administering a Parish Advocacy Program** Many dioceses have found parish advocacy programs to be an effective means of supporting parishes in their efforts to welcome and create access for parishioners with disabilities. Parish advocates, referred to as parish representatives or contacts in some dioceses, are recruited, trained, and supported by the diocesan director. They serve as a liaison between people with disabilities and the parish, and between the parish and the diocesan ministry with people with disabilities. The parish advocate may be an individual, or ideally, may be the chairperson of a parish Committee for People with Disabilities.

[MORE DETAILS](#)

[MORE DETAILS](#)

### 3. *Sample Job Description for Parish Advocates*



If you do not already have and would like to own *Opening Doors, Volume II, Books A and B* you will find ordering information in NCPD Resources at this button on the left.



## Timeless Reflections



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

**MORE DETAILS**

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>.

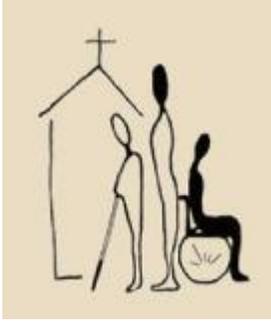
## Diocesan Director/ Organizational News and Notes



### **2011 Respect Life Program Pamphlets Available from USCCB: Includes Pamphlet on Disability**

The 2011-2012 Respect Life Program features eight pamphlets in a series called *Life Matters*. Each presents convincing support for the teachings of the Catholic Church on major pro-life issues. Topics include a beautiful pamphlet on disability. Be sure to check it out! .

All 8 pamphlets are available in English and Spanish. Click on picture to view pamphlets.



### **August's Inclusion Tip: *Navigating the IEP***

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

Thank you for all you do to guide children, parents and teachers through the education maze!



### **“Next steps” to ensure that diocesan catechetical leaders are properly equipped to support and integrate children and adults with disabilities**

from Ryan Hanning, Director of Parish Leadership Support, Diocese of Phoenix

1. Identify a Disabilities contact person for each parish and offer formation and meeting opportunities.
2. One deanery formation meeting per year will be dedicated to a topic related to disabilities.
3. Our Diocesan Website will be updated with ample resources.
4. Include one NCPD resource in each monthly E-Update.



Dr. Nancy Thompson, Ryan Hanning and Janice Benton at a catechetical workshop held in the Diocese of Phoenix

### **White Masses in the Diocese of Richmond**

- I am pleased to announce that we will be having our first annual White Masses in four different locations throughout our diocese on October 30, 2011. The Masses will bring together all Catholics of good will who have special needs and those who work to support them.
- The Masses have the designation of white, because of that color's connection to Baptism.
- The USCCB based its Sacramental Guidelines for Persons with Disabilities on



this primary foundation: “By reason of their baptism, all Catholics are equal in dignity in the sight of God and have the same divine calling.”(#1)

- To read more on the locations, times, and the Building a Culture of Life Workshops, please see the documents at the following link.

from Nita Grignol, Office for & with Persons with Disabilities

[MORE DETAILS](#)

## Workshop on Supporting Parish Contacts for Persons with Disabilities (PCPD)



- Parish Contacts for Persons with Disabilities (PCPD) in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will be supported with workshops focused on their needs at their annual fall meeting Oct. 22.
- They are asked to send a substitute from their parish if they
- cannot attend.
- Priests, deacons, parish staff and parish volunteers are also welcome to attend.
- The Fall 2011 Parish Contact Workshop, is called *Widening the Welcome in Parish Life*.

from Janell Lavender, Coordinator,  
Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

[FLYER](#)

## Resources

### Resources for Persons with Disabilities for Roman Missal, Third Edition

This NCPD web page with resources for the Roman Missal to support Disability Ministry has been assembled for your convenience. It contains a variety of resources that you will need as the Church prepares to implement the Revised Roman Missal with its new language for the Mass on November 27, the first Sunday of Advent.

[FLYER](#)



Welcoming the  
**ROMAN MISSAL** THIRD EDITION  
*Deepen. Nurture. Celebrate.*

## Resources for Recruiting and Supporting Catechists

### *Jesus Style Recruiting Book*

As you recruit and support your catechists, this is one of many helpful resources from which you can benefit. [www.vdpublishing.net](http://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.

Sign-up!

## NCPD Resources

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

BLOG

National Catholic Network on  
Mental Illness - Sign Up Now

CLICK HERE

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

## Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, September 13, 2011;**

2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

*Symbolic Catechesis and Other Tools in Catechetical Ministry*

NCPD Webinar

Registration open

FLYER

Tuesday, September 20, 2011;

4:00-5:00 p.m. ET

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

NCPD Webinar

Registration open

Tuesday, October 18, 2011;

4:00-5:00 p.m. ET

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

October 22, 2011  
9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ET  
Widening the Welcome in Parish Life  
Parish Contact Workshop  
(Supporting Parish Contacts  
for Persons with Disabilities)  
Philadelphia, PA  
October 30, 2011

White Masses  
Diocese of Richmond, VA  
Held at 4 different times and locations across the diocese.

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

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