

Affirming Life: Making A Difference!

October 9, 2010 - 9:45 am – 3:30 pm (Registration begins at 9 am)

Opening 9:45 –Keynote 10 am -

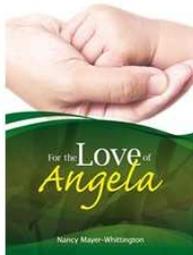
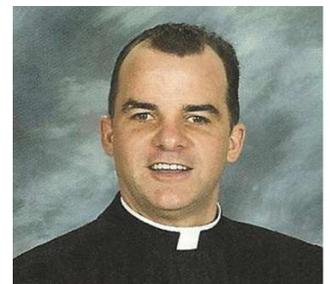
Pastoral Center 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294

Purpose of the Workshop will be to educate on the dignity of the human person and the value of each and every person, disabled or non-disabled and then to focus on the programs/ministries that our diocesan churches have started that affirm life and make a difference for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Target audience: Disability Parish Advocates, Pastoral Ministers, Human Concerns Ministers, Respect Life Ministers, Deacons, Clergy, Christian Formation Directors, Youth Ministers, Campus Ministers, etc.

Keynote Speaker: - Fr. Mike Joly, Pastor, St. Joan of Arc, Yorktown.

Fr. Mike developed a brain tumor at age five and the surgery to remove the growth left him blind. His father gave him a choice **between feeling sorry for himself or doing something with his life. Fr. Mike says his story is not about success, but about hope.** Fr. Mike was the first blind seminarian received into seminary domestically. He graduated from the University of Baltimore, Maryland in 1990 and St. Mary's Seminary in June of 1994. Fr. Mike strongly believes what has made his vocation possible is **God's will.**



Luncheon Speaker: – Nancy Mayer-Whittington, author of ***For the Love of Angela***, will recount her experience of carrying and delivering her daughter, Angela, who died shortly after birth. Nancy will focus on the critical importance of her Catholic faith and how she and others who had similar experiences found a way to give back and make a difference!

Table Discussions: Disability Ministries/ Disability Parish Initiatives, Examples of Programs, Pastoral Plans, Discernment, and Call to Action

Cost: \$15.00 which includes continental breakfast, lunch, & materials.

Registration: Click here, www.tinyurl.com/affirminglife2010

Call for Flyers: We are blessed to have ministries/programs in our Diocesan churches that affirm life and make a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. We are asking our parishes (parish advocates, human concerns ministers, etc.) to submit a flyer, brochure, and information on any program, activity, ministry that will help resource others who are starting ministries for people with disabilities.

The flyers will be displayed at Resource Tables by categories: Accommodations/Accessibility; Awareness; Christian Formation; Ecumenical; Inclusion; Respect Life; Support Services; and Resources. For examples and more information, [click here](#). Please submit brochures, flyers to Nita Grignol at ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org. We hope that anyone submitting flyers will attend the workshop so you answer question and be a resource to others.