



NCPD E-News

April 2012

Feature Stories

Mental Health
Awareness Month

Links for Mental Health
Resources

NCPD News & Notes

NCPD Seminar in
Diocese of Youngstown

NCPD Presenting at
Archdiocese of
Washington Conference

NCPD Southwest
Regional Meeting
at NCCL Conference

Dinner Meeting with
Diocese of Orange

[Diocesan/Partner](#)

Easter is almost here!

The work you do brings new life to those you serve throughout the year. We pray that your Lenten journey has been fruitful, and that we will all be able to experience resurrection in our lives as we celebrate Easter together as Church this Triduum.

This E-News is a little pre-Easter gift from us. Since most of you will be off on Good Friday, as we will, we decided to send it early this month, for your convenience. Let us share the peace and grace of Christ as we enter these holiest of days.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

The NCPD Council on Mental Illness has produced a variety of materials which can aid in observance of May as Mental Health Month. Click here for resources posted on the NCPD website. The Council will be hosting a national conference call on ways in which dioceses and parishes can commemorate May as Mental Health Month on Tuesday, April 24, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm EDT.

Click the button to register for the call.

[Click here to register.](#)

[News and Notes](#)

Archdiocese of Philadelphia to hold Retreat for Mothers of Children with Disabilities

Xavier Society for the Blind on Facebook

Diocese of Wichita Addresses Transportation Issues for People with Disabilities

Archdiocese of Washington to hold 4th Annual Conference on Faith, Deafness & Disabilities

Tip Sheet: Tips for Families Living with Autism

[USCCB and Legislative News](#)

USCCB Announces Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb

[Resources](#)

Awareness Commemorations

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Archived E-News](#)

[Click here](#)

Among the materials on the website developed by the Council is a Framework to guide our efforts. For other resources on Mental Illness [click here](#).

NCPD Theological Framework for Ministry for and with People with Mental Illness

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) sets forth the following framework as a guide to the Church's ministry for and with people with mental illness:



HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED. EVERY PERSON IS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE.

“One of the fundamental truths of Christian belief is that each human being is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). The Catholic Church unconditionally embraces and faithfully proclaims this truth. It is the foundation for human dignity. Our commitment to this truth is measured through actions on behalf of the vulnerable and alienated in society, especially the poor and suffering.” *Affirming the Dignity of the Mentally Ill, Nebraska Bishop's Conference, January 2005.*

January 2005.

SINCE ALL PEOPLE ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, THEIR DIGNITY AND WORTH CANNOT BE DIMINISHED BY ANY CONDITION INCLUDING MENTAL ILLNESS.

[MORE DETAILS](#)



"Whoever suffers from mental illness 'always' bears God's image and likeness in themselves, as does every human being. In addition, they 'always' have the inalienable right not only to be considered as an image of God and therefore as a person, but also to be treated as such." *Pope John Paul II, International Conference for Health Care Workers, on Illnesses of the Human Mind, November 30, 1996. More...*

Other links for resources

Below is a list of links that contain valuable information and resources related to mental illness. NCPD does not vouchsafe the content of the related links. We provide the links in the hope that there is information on these websites that can be of aid.

Mental Health Ministries

"Mental Health Ministries has evolved into an ecumenical and interfaith outreach. It works with faith communities, advocacy groups, community organizations and mental health professionals. Our focus is on spirituality and mental illness. A distinction is made between spirituality and religion. Spirituality springs from a belief system that gives meaning to our lives. It grows out of our experience rather than doctrine. Religion, on the other hand, refers to the beliefs and practices associated with organized groups such as churches, synagogues, mosques, etc. We support a holistic approach to mental illness encompassing the mind, body and spirit."

Pathways to Promise is an interfaith technical assistance and resource center which offers liturgical and educational materials, program models, and networking information to promote a caring ministry with people with mental illness and their families. These resources are used by people at all levels of faith group structures from local congregations to regional and national staff.

MORE DETAILS



See above video on [*Overcoming Stigma, Finding Hope*](#)
All too often the term "mental illness" evokes inaccurate, stigmatizing stereotypes. Studies estimate that one-half of people with treatable mental illness do not seek help because of the stigma. Mental health professionals discuss stigma, its affects and moving beyond stigma to hope. For more information please visit www.MentalHealthMinistries.net

CLICK HERE



NAMI Faithnet:

Faithnet is a branch of NAMI, the National Alliance on



Mental Illness. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots organization for people with mental illness and their families. Founded in 1979, NAMI has affiliates in every state and in more than 1,100 local communities across the country.

NCPD News and Notes

NCPD staff presenting for Diocese of Youngstown parish and diocesan staff in Canfield, OH

On Tuesday, April 17, 2012 Janice Benton and Dr. Nancy Thompson will present a day-long seminar: "Collaborating with Pastoral Staffs to Create Welcoming and Inclusive Parishes." We thank Barbara Walko, Diocesan Director of Religious Education for inviting us to provide a seminar for the parish personnel of the diocese of Youngstown at the St. Michael Family Life Center in Canfield.



Sessions will be held by Jan and Nancy at the Archdiocese of Washington Department of Special Needs Ministries Fourth Annual Conference on Faith, Deafness and Disabilities

On Saturday, April 21, in Washington, DC Janice Benton will facilitate a listening session on "Faith and Mental Illness." Nancy will facilitate on a "Luncheon Family Dialogue." Thanks to Mary O'Meara and Peg Kolm for kindly inviting us to attend, and for hosting a liturgy and lunch reception the following day to honor Jan following her reception of the 2012 Harry A. Fagan Award in February. The celebration will be held Sunday, April 22 beginning with liturgy at 10 am at the St. Francis of Assisi Deaf Catholic Church, 7202 Buchanan Street, Landover, MD. To RSVP for the

lunch, contact Peg Kolm at mkolm@adw.org or at 240-994-0603.



Southwest Regional Meeting of Diocesan Leaders in Disability Ministry/ NCPD Pre-Conference Meeting at NCCL Conference

NCPD and the Diocese of San Diego Office for Social Ministries will host disability ministry staff from the southwestern dioceses of the U.S. as they convene in San Diego on **Friday, May 4 at 3:00 p.m. PDT** for introductions, dinner and informal conversation prior to our next two days of more formal meetings on **Saturday, May 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PDT, and on Sunday, May 6, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

We will be joined beginning Saturday by other diocesan and parish leaders in disability ministry who will be attending the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Annual Conference. We will meet at the Diocese of San Diego Pastoral Center on Saturday. (Transportation will be available from the Town and Country Resort in San Diego where the NCCL Conference will be held.)

Experts in Church access for those with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, mental illness and parish support for veterans will spark dialogue sessions with introductions on their topics followed by conversation with participants about meeting needs in their parishes and dioceses.



On **Sunday, May 6, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.**, the group will meet at the Town & Country Resort to continue networking and to learn more about what dioceses are doing to support the needs of parishioners with disabilities and their families. **Join colleagues for one or all 3 days. Check this link for further information and to register.**

[Click here to register.](#)

NCCL Conference

NCPD staff Janice Benton, Executive Director & Dr. Nancy Thompson, Director of Programs & Diocesan Relations, **will present on “Addressing Special Needs in Rural Parishes” at NCCL in San Diego, Tuesday, May 8th 2:00 - 3:15 pm PDT.** To learn more about the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Annual Conference and to register, go to <http://www.nccl.us/home.html>.



Diocese of Orange Special Needs Advisory Circle and leaders in disability ministry will attend a dinner-meeting with NCPD Staff

Mary Brosseau, Chaplain at Fairview Developmental Center in Costa Mesa, CA and Dr. Kathleen Schinhofen, Associate Director of Faith Formation, Diocese of Orange-Office of Faith Formation, are hosting a dinner to meet with NCPD staff on May 15 in Orange, CA. We look forward to learning more about all the aspects of disability ministry in

their diocese and in sharing with them from the national perspective. It is tremendously valuable for Jan and Nancy to meet with diocesan directors and diocesan disability commissions around the U.S. to help NCPD become more aware of your gifts, of how NCPD can be of greater support to your areas of ministry, and to meet leaders in disability from all parts of the country.



[CLICK HERE](#)

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.*

[MORE DETAILS](#)

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

**Donate
to NCPD**

Friends of NCPD contribute \$1000 annually to provide additional seed money for the projects listed above. **Become a Friend in 2012!**

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

Diocesan Director/Partner News and Notes



Submitted by Sr. Kathleen Schipani, Administrator, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Pastoral Care for Persons w/ Disabilities/ Deaf Apostolate (and member, NCPD Board of Directors)
Mothers of Children with Disabilities Retreat:

On Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at the Malvern Retreat House, Fr. Dennis O'Donnell will direct a retreat for mothers who are raising children with disabilities and also those who have adult children with disabilities. There will be time to pray, reflect, and chat with other mothers. To register or for more information please contact Malvern Retreat House at 610-644-0400, malvernretreat.com or Sr. Kathleen Schipani at 215-587-3913, 267-507-1215(VP), and PCPDDEAF@adphila.org. [English Flyer](#) [Spanish Flyer](#)

[Click here for flyer.](#)



Xavier Society for the Blind BE OUR FRIEND

The Xavier Society for the Blind is on Facebook, and makes the following request: "We would like you to be our "Friend." Find us, and "like" us. It helps us get more exposure, and if you "share" some of our news items or articles with your FB friends, more and more people will learn about us and what we do. (And it won't cost us anything! Or you either.) Help spread the word about faith formation resources for the blind and visually impaired. You can help spread the word about who we are and what we do without ever leaving home. Thank you for helping us, and sharing us with your friends."



Tom Racunas, Director, Ministries with Persons with Disabilities, Diocese of Wichita



Tom recently contacted us regarding a situation in his diocese: "The Advisory Council of the Ministry with Persons with Disabilities in the Diocese of Wichita is wanting to tackle the issue of transportation for people with disabilities and the aging. Our experience is that some of our brothers and sisters can get to Mass on Sunday by being provided transportation through their group home, family, or volunteer but, depending on the schedules of those who provide the transportation, the service is unreliable and, therefore, attendance is inconsistent. The ability to attend special liturgies, faith formation activities or parish social activities, is even more of an issue.

Wichita, unfortunately, has a horrible public transportation system. Service during the evenings and on weekends is minimal.

We are curious if any initiatives have been successful in your diocese. If so, was the initiative from the Diocesan level? The parish-level? Do you have a model? Was there an effort to work with agencies that provide residential services to the disabled to see if they could change their system to honor choice and provide more reliable transportation? How are liability issues addressed? How is the protection of the vulnerable ensured? (Is everyone who drives as a volunteer required to have training)?

Any input you can provide would be greatly appreciated as we try to find a starting point. Please forward responses to Tom Racunas at racunast@catholicdioceseofwichita.org."



Peg Kolm, ADW Coordinator of Disability Ministry

Archdiocese of Washington Department of Special Needs

Ministries will host on April 21, their Fourth Annual Conference on Faith, Deafness & Disabilities:

[Click here for flyer.](#)

Creating Communities Where All Are Welcome Across the Life Span. Tony Melendez and the “Toe Jam Band” will be featured throughout the day.

Click here for more information and to register. ([English Flyer](#), [Spanish Flyer](#), [Register Here](#))



March's Inclusion Tip: Tips for Families Living with Autism

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

April is the month designated to raise awareness for individuals living with autism. Marsha says, “I hope your life has been touched with the gifts autism brings!”

Click "**Tip Sheet**" button for more information.

For more information contact Marsha Rivas, Equal Access Ministries, Diocese of Toledo 419-244-6711 mrivas@toledodiocese.org



USCCB and Legislative News

Vatican Statement on 5th World Autism Day, held during Holy Week this year.

<http://www.news.va/en/news/world-autism-day-archbishop-zimowski-increasing-se>

USCCB Announces Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb

"The blessing was prepared to support parents awaiting the birth of their child, to encourage parish prayers for and recognition of the precious gift of the child in the womb, and to foster respect for human life within society. It can be offered within the context of the Mass as well as outside of Mass."

Parents who have received a poor prenatal diagnosis have long wanted to have an official blessing for their child in the womb.

[READ MORE](#)

Prior to this new Rite, there was no such official prayer. The prayer for a pregnant woman is tremendously valued but this new prayer for an unborn child will be valued by all parents awaiting a birth, not only those who have received a prenatal diagnosis of lethal or life threatening conditions or disability.



"The blessing originated when then-Bishop Joseph Kurtz of Knoxville, Tennessee (now archbishop of Louisville, Kentucky) asked the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities to see if a blessing existed for a child in the womb. When none was found, the committee prepared a text and submitted it to the USCCB's Divine Worship committee in March of 2008. It was approved by the full body of bishops in November 2008, and then sent to Rome for editing and final approval." It is estimated to be available in print from the USCCB by Mothers Day. [Read the full press release...](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

Here is an article on how a prenatal-testing mandate could lead to more abortions <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/is-the-hhs-taking-aim-at-babies-with-down-syndrome>

Resources

Awareness Commemorations:

We occasionally receive calls about monthly commemorations of disability issues. Below are some of the ongoing or upcoming commemorations.

April is:	May is:
Autism Awareness Month World Autism Awareness Day (April 2) Cancer Control Month National Occupational Therapy Month	National Mental Health Awareness Month Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month Hepatitis Awareness Month National Arthritis Month National Stroke Awareness Month Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month Better Speech and Hearing Month

Resources for Persons with Disabilities for Roman Missal, Third Edition

[CLICK HERE](#)



NCPD Resources

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

[MORE DETAILS](#)

[National Catholic Network on Mental Illness - Sign Up Now](#)



Calendar of Events

Fourth Annual Conference on Faith, Deafness and Disabilities Saturday, April 21, 8:15 – 4:45 pm; Conference Mass at 5 pm

Performances by Tony Melendez

Blessed Sacrament School

5841 Chevy Chase Parkway, Washington, DC 20015

Fully accessible

General Sessions offered in English, Spanish and ASL

(selected workshops in Spanish and ASL)

Child Care for Children with Special Needs

Registration fee \$20
(includes coffee/morning
snack and lunch)

Sign-up!



[English Flyer](#) [Spanish Flyer](#)

FLYER

NCPD Southwest Regional Meeting for Dio. Directors of Disability Ministry and NCCL Pre-conference Meeting for Disability Ministry

May 4-6, 2012

Click here for more information and to register.

MORE DETAILS

NCCL 76th Annual Conference and Exposition

(May 6-10, 2012)

Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, California

Click here to register.

Click here to register.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRIES
Fourth Annual Conference on FAITH, DEAFNESS & DISABILITIES:
Creating Connections: Where All Are Welcome. 8:15 AM - 4:45 PM
Blessed Sacrament School - 5841 Chevy Chase Parkway, NW - Washington, DC 20015

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012 • 8:15 AM - 4:45 PM • 5:00 PM Mass

<p>8:15 am Registration & Coffee 8:45 am Welcome & Introduction Rev. Donald Pyle, Pastor Cantor of the Blessed Sacrament</p> <p>9:00 - 9:45 Opening Prayer and Reflection Rev. Melvin and the "The One Word"</p> <p>9:45 - 10:15 Hispanic Presentation Rev. William Rivera Secretary Bishop of Miami Diocese of Miami "From Entry of Gospel to Ministry of Hope"</p> <p>Presented by: James M. Sullivan President, National Council on Disability, Inc. Mary Kay Ann, Director President, CDD Catholic Charities</p>	<p>10:45 - 11:00 First Workshop Session 11:00 - 11:45 LUNCH 11:45 - 12:15 Second Workshop Session 12:15 - 12:45 Third Workshop Session</p> <p>1:00 - 1:15 Break 1:15 - 1:30 Presentation 1:30 - 1:45 Presentation 1:45 - 2:00 Presentation 2:00 - 2:15 Presentation 2:15 - 2:30 Presentation 2:30 - 2:45 Presentation 2:45 - 3:00 Presentation 3:00 - 3:15 Presentation 3:15 - 3:30 Presentation 3:30 - 3:45 Presentation 3:45 - 4:00 Presentation 4:00 - 4:15 Presentation 4:15 - 4:30 Presentation 4:30 - 4:45 Presentation</p> <p>Workshop for Deafness, Child and Adolescent Services</p>	<p>4:00 - 4:30 Communion - Congregation Rev. William Rivera 5841 Chevy Chase Parkway, NW Catholic Charities</p> <p>5:00 - 5:30 Mass Blessed Sacrament Pastor Donald Pyle, Pastor Cantor of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Charities</p> <p>Registration: \$20 To Register please go to www.dpsnministries.com For more information, contact ncmi@dcpsnministries.com, 202.555.2800</p>
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NAMI FaithNet Networking Session and workshops

2012 NAMI National Convention
Seattle Sheraton Hotel, June 27-30



[CLICK HERE](#)

Xavier Society for the Blind Online Auction opens

Monday, April 9

Online Auction closes on May 4 at 5 PM



[CLICK HERE](#)

2012 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability

Sponsored by The Boggs Center and the Bethesda Institute
Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL
July 16-20, 2012



[MORE DETAILS](#)

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

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