



NCPD E-News

August 2012

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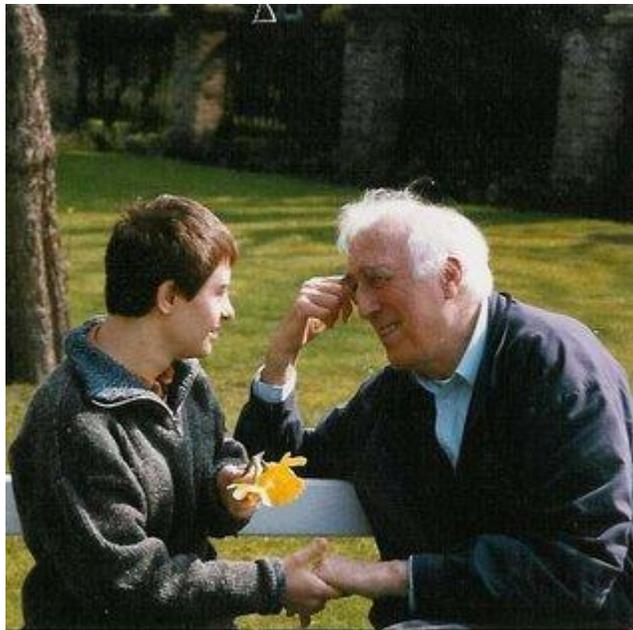
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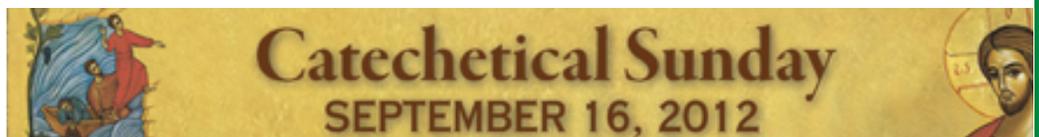
- Amazing Gifts: Stories of

Jean Vanier Nominated for 2012 Nobel Peace Prize



Jean Vanier has been nominated to receive the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize. In a world sometimes filled with tragedy and a lack of compassion for our fellow human being, Jean Vanier represents all that is good and well in the world. What a message of hope it would be for Jean Vanier to receive the 2012 Nobel Peace prize. To read more of the August 8, 2012 Huffington Post article [click here](#).

To learn more about L'Arche in the United States, go to <http://www.larcheusa.org/>.



Faith, Disability and Inclusion

- I Believe in You: A Mother and Daughter's Special Journey

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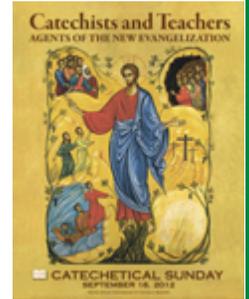
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Archived E-News

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Theme
"Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization"



This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 16, 2012, and will focus on the theme "Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization." Those whom the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Information about Catechetical Sunday:

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Green Vestments - Year B

Readings: [Isaiah 50:5-9a](#), [James 2:14-18](#), [Mark 8:27-35](#)

[Download Resources](#)

[Purchase Resources](#)

Use these NCPD Resources as You Prepare for the Upcoming Catechetical Year

[Catechesis](#), [Ministry Specific](#) resources, various [Ministry Models](#), [Spirituality](#) and [Building Awareness](#)



[Ministry Toolkit](#)

NCPD Turns 30!

The National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) was established in 1982, with the 1978 *Pastoral Statement* as its mandate and Sister Rita Baum, S.S.J. as Executive Director.



August 15 marks the 30th anniversary of the day that Sr. Rita Baum and Jan Benton walked in the office door for the first time, to begin the work of the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities, NCPD (now the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, NCPD).

**Happy birthday to us, happy birthday to us, happy 30th birthday NCPD,
Happy birthday to us!**

It has been an amazing 30 years.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff members and volunteers who have been part of this organization throughout the years. We would also like to thank diocesan and parish staff, some of whom have been with us since that first day, who have done so much to support ministry with and for people with disabilities at the local and national levels in the Catholic Church. We thank God for all the progress experienced in this ministry, for the gifts of those with disabilities who are such valuable members of our faith communities, and for the confidence we have in the future for NCPD and those whom we serve.

On the Road with NCPD



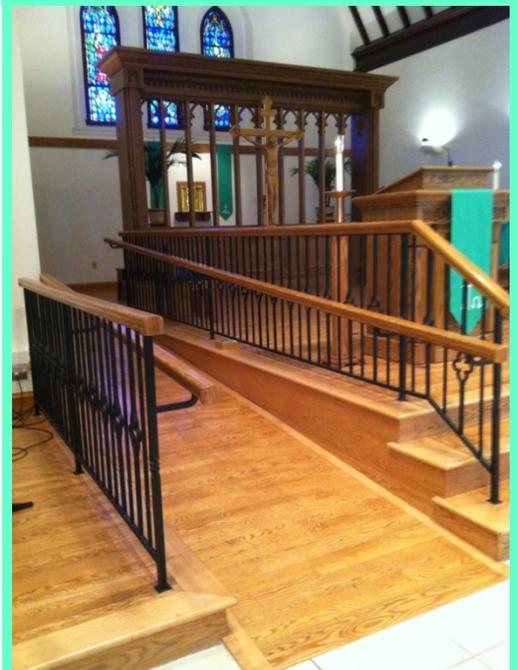
The staff at NCPD wishes all of you blessings and grace during this summer break from your normal routine. Be rejuvenated and spiritually inspired during this time!

July Travels for NCPD Staff

Jan Benton's Out-of-Office Adventures in July

Jan and her husband, Martin, had the pleasure of visiting NCPD Chair, Susanna Herro and her husband Stuart in their beautiful home in Madison, WI. The Herros showed Jan and Martin around Madison, and hosted a dinner with Fr. Larry Bakke, a pastor and the director of disability ministry for the Diocese of Madison. Jan and Martin are looking forward to a return visit to Madison on September 27 (with Nancy) to meet with diocesan personnel to discuss ways in which to further develop the ministry.

Martin made his speaking debut at a one-day conference in Charleston, WV for pastoral leaders seeking to implement Bishop Bransfield's pastoral letter, *Hearts Made Whole*, in parishes throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Martin and Jan shared their story of how Martin's bipolar disorder, which was diagnosed one month before their first anniversary, impacted their 30+ year life together, including the births of their two children and the many milestones shared. They spoke of the positive role that family, friends and the faith community have played in his ongoing recovery. Other conference presenters were Connie Rakitan, co-chair of



The accessible sanctuary at Herro's parish, Blessed Sacrament, in Madison, WI

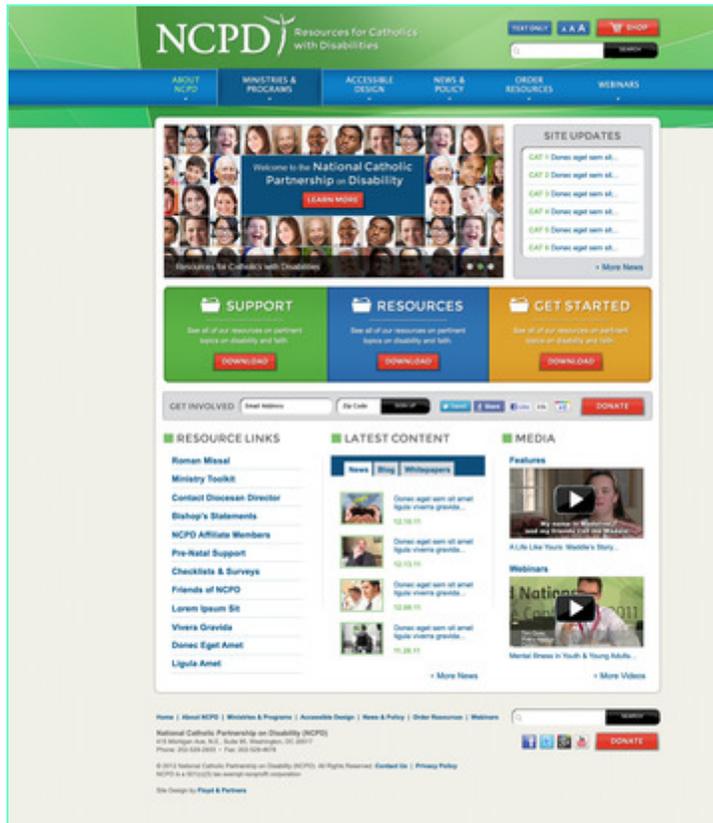
NCPD's Council on Mental Illness, and Council member Fr. Bob Malloy. Connie returned to DC with Martin and Jan and spoke on parish support for individuals with mental illness at two events hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington Department of Special Needs.

Jan will travel to Portland, OR in late August to participate in a camp for Hispanic families with children with disabilities hosted annually by Dorothy Coughlin and the Archdiocesan Office for People with Disabilities.

Nancy Thompson's Out-of-Office Adventures in July

Jan and Martin Benton were able to visit NCPD Iowa! How fun it was to show them the inner workings of my office and work there face-to-face with Jan. They blessed my home with their presence. We went together to the Midwest Regional Meeting in Ankeny, IA, July 10 and 11, hosted by Cheryl Fournier from the Diocese of Des Moines, where we met with multidiscipline diocesan staff and parish catechetical leaders from Iowa and Nebraska, and explored how the full range of diocesan offices can support together the needs of people with disabilities and their families in those dioceses. It was a wonderful meeting and new networks were established.

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. The talks were informative, the networking opportunities were blessed, and it was great getting to spend face-to-face time with Charleen Katra, Mary Beth Walsh and Madonna Wojtaszek-Healey from the NCPD Autism Task Force. After working together for 2 years, Mary Beth and I realized it was the first time we have been in the same location at the same time!



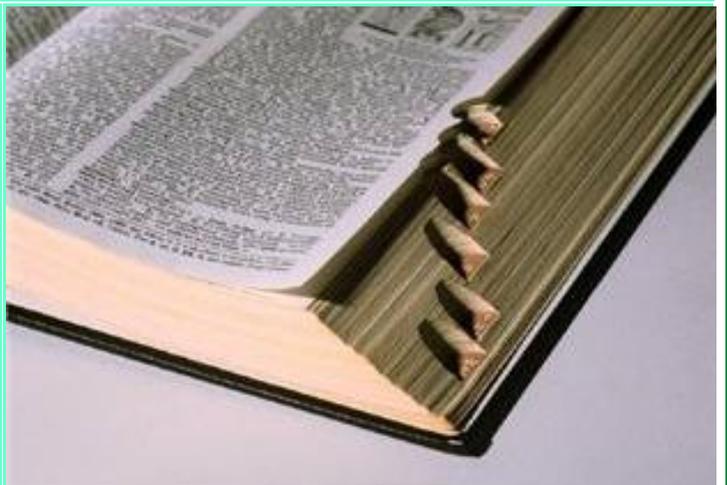
Staff work on new website Jan, Bob and Nancy are working diligently with our professionals to create NCPD's new website that will have many new interactive elements to support ministry with persons with the full range of disabilities, their families, and those who serve them in ministry. Look forward to online training and video clips of catechetical techniques, among the new features.

www.ncpd.org in its current form Check out dozens of resources for catechetical ministry and catechist inservices for use as you prepare for the upcoming year. Keep watching for more and more resources as the new website comes to life.

Autism Task Force working through the summer

Our ever so faithful ATF members have been working to complete as many of our tasks assigned by the NCPD Board as possible before they meet in November.

One of the things we are working to complete is an approximately 150 word dictionary of blackline images for use in social stories with students with autism and other developmental disabilities. The Dictionary will be available for download from our website and will populate the App for Mass Attendance and Sacramental Preparation so users can build their own social stories. These images will cover Catholic words that are commonly needed for mass and sacramental preparation.





Speaking of the App, it is progressing along nicely. We are so grateful for the gifts in app design and development of Mark Mautone from our ATF.

Mary Beth Walsh presented a workshop with Christina Gangemi of England on how the Church is reaching out through ministries such as yours to meet needs of Catholics with autism and other developmental disabilities at the Theology and Disability Summer Institute in Chicago in July.

Large Print Roman Missal There have been many orders for our print and CD versions. Size 24 font is being re-printed to meet that size's volume demand. Size 34 and 44 are used by many priests and deacons around the country, as well.



A special request edition of print size 125 font in an abbreviated version is finished and in the mail to one of our earliest priest users. Thanks to Bob Quinlan and those who helped him finish this labor of love from us to Fr. George.

Joe Flaherty, one of the team members that worked on the project, and who volunteered to format the 125 font special request edition, displays the finished work.



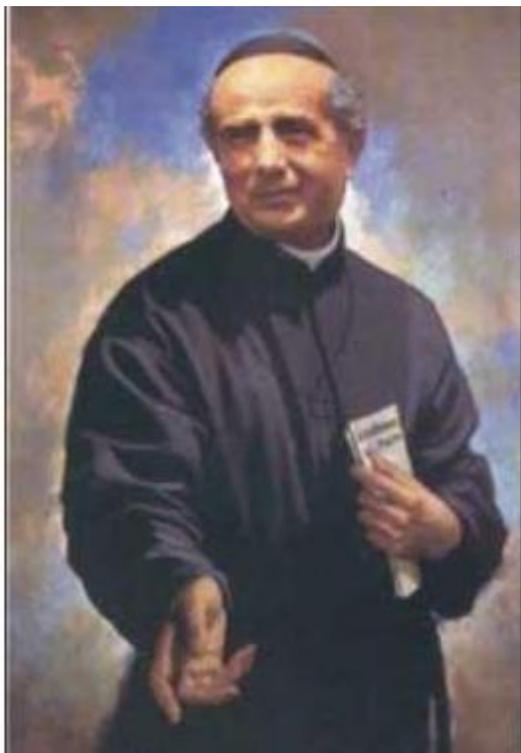
**Donate
to NCPD**

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.

Diocesan Director, Partner, and Organizational News and Notes

Embracing immigrants and persons with disabilities

Mary Cullinan, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Office for Family Life and Laity



Come join us October 13, 2012 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for a mini-conference during Respect Life Month called *Living the Gospel of Life: Embracing immigrants and persons with disabilities*. It will be held on the occasion of the first anniversary of the canonization of *Saint Louis Guanella* and the centenary celebration of his coming to the U.S. to establish ministries of the Servants of Charity (SdC) & Daughters of St. Mary of Providence (DSMP) which he founded. We will reflect together on Guanella's visionary leadership in defending all human life and promoting the dignity of those with developmental disabilities and immigrants. This workshop will consider the Church's work with both immigrants and persons with disabilities as expressions of a full-bodied and comprehensive Pro-Life commitment. For more information, contact: Fr. Dennis Weber, SdC or Fr. Paul Oggioni, SdC at 610-328-3406.

[MORE DETAILS](#)

Be Not Afraid Workshops: Omaha and Philadelphia

**Robin A. Laird, M.T.S., M.A.,
Archdiocese of Omaha,
Coordinator of Marriage and
Family Ministries**



You are invited to come to Omaha to receive training to serve parents who have received a poor prenatal diagnosis of their unborn child. The Archdiocese will be hosting a ***Be Not Afraid Ministry Training*** on Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 8:30am-12:30pm; Spirit Catholic Radio Network, 13326 A St, Omaha, NE. Featured speakers will be Monica Rafie,

founder of BeNotAfraid.net and Sandy Buck, co-founder of Be Not Afraid (Charlotte). *Be Not Afraid* is a peer ministry offering practical guidance and compassionate care focusing on the needs of expectant parents as they seek to honor the life of their baby no matter how frail or how brief. For more information contact Elizabeth Murphy, emmurphy@archomaha.org, or call 402.551.9003 ext. 1306. (*Editor's Note: Please note the extension on last month's flyers and E-News article was not correct. Use this one to contact Elizabeth to register or for more information.*)

Sr. Kathleen Schipani Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Administrator, Pastoral Care for Persons w/ Disabilities

Save the date - October 20, 2012 for an all day workshop for our Parish Contacts/Advocates for Persons with Disabilities on the very important topic of supporting parents who experience a Poor Prenatal Diagnosis (PPD). Please see the Save the Date flyer attached. More will follow on this. Save the date and assist us in encouraging Priest, Deacons and other pastoral care providers to attend. This will be our FALL Parish Contact meeting so I hope you can attend.

Sincerely,
Sr. Kathleen Schipani



Lee Nagel, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL)



From Lee's CL Weekly, July 30, 2012
(In the spirit of the Olympics and Paralympics, which occur in England back-to-back.)



The Long brothers, Cayden and Connor, are not your typical triathletes. Six-year-old Cayden has cerebral palsy and can neither walk nor talk. But thanks to the dedication of his older brother, Connor, the young boy has participated in several triathlons. "People don't realize that when you [have] special needs and [use] a

wheelchair, you won't be able to get out that much," said 9-year-old Connor in November last year.



Wanting to help his brother experience sports like other children, Connor asked his parents if...

... "I know it's changed him," the boys' mother said. "With the help of his brother, he's found something he can do." You can watch this 3 ½ minute video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_AIPcAcrfQ.



July's Inclusion Tip: Invisible Disabilities
from Marsha Rivas, Diocese of Toledo's Director,
Equal Access Ministries and member, NCPD Board of
Directors.

Navigating the IEP: A Guide for Parents An IEP is the individualized education plan, a document written for a child with a disability that identifies needs, sets goals and lists services to ensure optimal educational and vocational outcomes. Often the IEP process can be intimidating and overwhelming to parents. [Read](#)

[more...](#)

TIP SHEET



Click "**Tip Sheet**" button and scroll to the top of list for more information.

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

The Diocese of Toledo hosted the third annual Family Camp Weekend Retreat for families raising children with disabilities. Twelve families participated, representing almost 40 youngsters of all ages and their parents. A team of 25 volunteers assisted throughout all the activities starting with Friday's dinner and ending with lunch on Sunday. Favorite activities for parents were ballroom dance lessons and a candlelight dinner. Children without disabilities played special games with a "Sib Shop" facilitator. Teens enjoyed a night swim and all enjoyed making Christmas crafts as we celebrated Christmas in August!

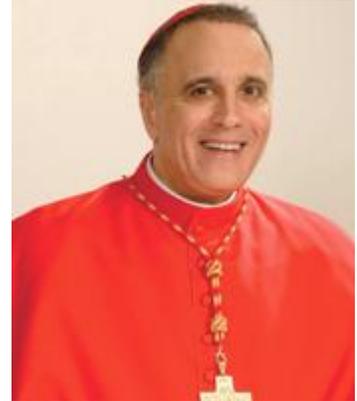


USCCB press release on Affordable Care Act

BISHOPS URGE CONGRESS TO ACT ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CRISIS IN HEALTH CARE BEFORE YEAR'S END

WASHINGTON—Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities and NCPD's Episcopal Moderator called on Congress to address the crisis in health care... Cardinal DiNardo called the mandate “unprecedented and misguided federal policy.” ...“For our part, the Catholic bishops of the United States continue to advocate for life-affirming health care for all, especially for poor and vulnerable people. We do not see this policy as a step in that direction,” he said. Click "Read More" for the full article.

[READ MORE](#)



[CLICK HERE](#)

For
Cardinal
DiNardo's
letter to Congress

Resources

Book Reviews

Amazing Gifts Stories of Faith, Disability and Inclusion Mark I. Pinsky

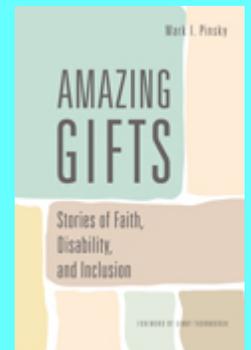
People's stories from a wide range of Christian and other faiths are shared in informative and uplifting ways. You can gain a wealth of ideas to include in your own ministries! The book is divided into three parts:

Part I: Empowering People and Congregations

Part 2: Ministry by People with Disabilities

Part 3: Family Members with Disabilities

You will see stories from some people you may know from our Catholic disability ministry community.



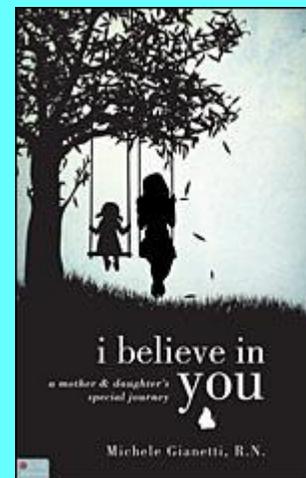
© Alban Institute 2012

[READ MORE](#)

I Believe in You A Mother & Daughter's Special Journey Michele Gianetti, RN

As the veil of denial is slowly lifted, Michele faces up to the fact that something is terribly wrong with her beautiful baby Elizabeth. She never once asks God why; rather she trusts in Him to show her the way and give her the strength to fight for little Elizabeth in every way possible.

Join her as she travels a road unfamiliar to most parents, into Elizabeth's world, the world of dyspraxia and sensory processing disorder, and meet the wonderful group of individuals, both therapists and friends who help her on her journey. Her devotion to Elizabeth proves there are some things that withstand even the greatest challenge: a mother's love and the words "I believe in you."



Enter this Catholic mother and daughter's world as Michele describes life and growth with Elizabeth, her beautiful daughter who has many autistic-like tendencies but not that disorder. She shares their challenging but blessed journey to where they are now with 15-year old Elizabeth becoming a young lady.

[MORE DETAILS](#)

Back to School Prayer Services

...for students, teachers, and catechists - including leaders' guides and student handouts.
Free, online, from Pflaum!

HANDS
Primary Grades

A Blessing for the New School Year
Intermediate Grades

Sharing Your Light
Catechists and Teachers

Send this e-mail to a friend

Thanks to Pflaum for providing these great looking back to school resources.

Awareness Commemorations

We occasionally receive calls about monthly commemorations of disability issues and we will list them for your convenience.

August Commemoration

August is Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month.

September Commemoration

National Celiac Disease Awareness Day (Sept. 13)

National Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Awareness Month and Day (September 20)

National Rehabilitation Week Sept. 16-22, 2012

National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month

Leukemia and Lymphoma Awareness Month

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month

Resources for Persons with Disabilities for Roman Missal, Third Edition

[MORE DETAILS](#)



Welcoming the
ROMAN MISSAL THIRD EDITION
Deepen. Nurture. Celebrate

NCPD Resources

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

[CLICK HERE](#)

National Catholic Network on Mental Illness - Sign Up Now

MI Network News

The Monthly Newsletter of the National Catholic Network on Mental Illness

[Sign-up!](#)

Calendar of Events

Sept. 6, 2012

Professional Day for Catechetical Leaders
Diocese of Trenton
Presented by Sr. Kathleen Schipani

Be Not Afraid Ministry Training

Archdiocese of Omaha
Saturday, September 15, 2012
8:30am-12:30pm
Spirit Catholic Radio Network
13326 A St, Omaha, NE.
Contact: Elizabeth Murphy, 402.551.9003 ext. 1323
or emmurphy@archomaha.org.

Living the Gospel of Life:

Embracing immigrants and persons with disabilities

Archdiocese of Philadelphia,
Office for Family Life and Laity
Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012; 9:30am to 1:30pm
Don Guanella Village
Cardinal Krol Recreation Center
1799 S. Sproul Road
Springfield, PA 19064
For more information, contact:
Fr. Dennis Weber, SdC or Fr. Paul Oggioni, SdC
at 610-328-3406.

FLYER

Supporting parents who experience a Poor Prenatal Diagnosis (PPD)

October 20, 2012
for Parish Contacts/Advocates for Persons with Disabilities
An all day workshop
Sr. Kathleen Schipani
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Pastoral Care for Persons w/ Disabilities

FLYER

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