



NCPD E-News

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2012

Features

Happy Kids for Christmas

Advent/ Christmas Reflection

NCPD News & Notes

Justice and Peace Award

New CDF Members

Survey Responses

Upcoming Meetings with NCPD

[Diocesan/Partner News and Notes](#)

Diocesan Disability Minister Honored

Parish Starts New Inclusion Ministry
Team in Archdiocese of Indianapolis

See Diocese of Wichita's Upgraded
Website

Archdiocese of Philadelphia School for
Deaf Celebrates 100th Year

Diocesan Disability Minister Job

HOLIDAY CONSIDERATIONS



**Celebrating the holidays
when a person's symptoms of their
disability makes it difficult for them to
enjoy the festivities**

Opening

[Vatican/ USCCB/ Federal News and Updates](#)

Filing Considerations for Persons with Disabilities

[Resources](#)

First Aid Protocol for Persons with Epilepsy

Be Not Afraid Offers new Articles on Prenatal Diagnosis

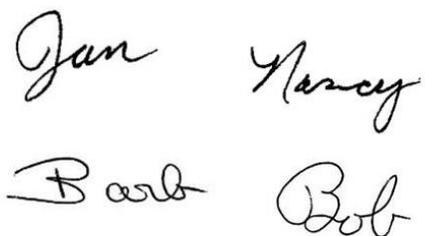
Awareness Commemorations

[NCPD Resources](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

Archived E-News

[Click here](#)



Jan Nancy
Barb Bob

Happy Kids for Christmas: It's typical for children to become over stimulated and stressed with all the activities surrounding the holiday season. Children with social and behavioral challenges may have the most difficulty adapting to schedule changes, visits to unfamiliar places, and introductions to new people and foods. The following tips give parents and caregivers some ways to maintain the joy of the season. .". . .[read more](#).

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS REFLECTION **by Deacon Tom Lambert, Co-chair, NCPD MI Council**

Advent is a time we “anticipate” and prepare for the celebration of Christmas. We marvel and enter into the mystery of God becoming human, forever changing the course of our world. It is a time to reexamine what the incarnation means to each of us in a personal way. In the hustle and bustle of the season, it often is a challenge to find the time to contemplate this wonderful mystery.

For me, part of my advent has been spent reflecting on the gospel we read on the feast of Christ the King ... [read more](#).

SEASONS' **BLESSINGS**

NCPD Boards, Council, Task Force and staff wish for you a very blessed Advent and Christmas season. May you find time to renew your spirit and be filled with the graces of the seasons. In this Year of Faith, we pray for you to be blessed with people who can uplift you in faith, even as you give yourself out to others. Know that you will continue to be in our prayers.



NCPD News and Notes

NCPD Executive Director Janice Benton receives 'Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Award' in Denver



"Don't think of disabilities as exceptional... We say it's a normal part of life." That's how Janice L. Benton, OFS, described her advocacy work Oct. 18 before the national gathering of the U.S. Secular Franciscan Order in Denver, Colorado -- where she was honored with the Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Award.

"You should make assumptions that people with disabilities want to be part of our community." ...[read more](#).

The Catholic Disability Foundation Welcomes Two New Members

The Catholic Disability Foundation (CDF) is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to its organization; James Goodman of Chicago, IL and Patrick Malone of Washington, DC. The CDF is established exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The focus of the CDF is to raise money to support the mission of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability.

Survey Responses

Thank you for your responses to our surveys on whether we should have a national disability ministry conference and continue our electronic newsletters!

You input was definitive in our decisions to hold our National Disability Ministry Conference Nov. 1-3, 2013 in Houston and in our continuing the E-News and MI Network News. Your responses showed us that you find these ministries helpful and supporting of your ministry. We couldn't have hoped for more!

UPCOMING MEETINGS WITH NCPD



**Plan Now To Join Us At The
NCPD National Disability Ministry
Conference
November 1-3, 2013 - Houston, TX**

NCPD is excited to host with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston an eagerly requested national conference on disability ministry. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, NCPD's Episcopal Moderator and Chair of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship will keynote and celebrate Mass during the conference. Save the dates and watch for much more information beginning in January, 2013.

**Members of the NCPD Council on Mental Illness,
Autism Task Force (ATF) and NCPD Board to present at
the Religious Education Congress in Anaheim, CA, Feb. 22-24, 2013
and at the National Catholic Education Association Annual Conference
in Houston, April 2-4, 2013**



Congratulations to Deacon Tom Lambert and Connie Rakitan of the NCPD Council on Mental Illness who will be presenting on mental illness ministries at the LA Congress. Also to Madonna Wojtaszek-Healy of the ATF who will be presenting two workshops at both the L.A. Congress and at NCEA; and Doreen Engel from the NCPD Board and Education Committee who will present at NCEA. We are so proud of you all. Congratulations. We look forward to your talks being on the agendas at these two important gatherings! Click on the pictures to go to the events' websites.





Tom Lambert, ordained a deacon for the Chicago Archdiocese, currently serves at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Chicago. He co-chairs the National Catholic Partnership on Disability's Council on Mental Illness, and is co-chair of the Chicago Archdiocese's Commission on Mental Illness, which he founded in 1990. Deacon Lambert is also President of Faith and Fellowship in Oak Park, Ill., and has led retreats for people with mental illness and their families.



In 1979, Connie Rakitan founded the Illinois-based Faith and Fellowship, and now serves as Program Director. She is author of the resources that form the content of the sessions used across the county. Rakitan has spoken nationally on social outreach with and for adults with mental illness. She serves as Chair of the Chicago Archdiocesan Commission on Mental Illness and is a founding member and Co-Chair of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability's Council on Mental Illness.

Sunday, February 24, 2013

10:00 - 11:30 am - Session 7-15

"Welcoming and Valuing People with Mental Illness"

Mental illnesses – including depression, schizophrenia, bipolar illness, obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder – touch one in four families. Stigma keeps many who have these illnesses, and their families, from getting help. How can we as Church reach out and let them know they are not alone? Deacon Tom Lambert and Connie Rakitan will share their experiences of over 25 years providing support and educating parishes and dioceses about ministry to people with mental illness. They will present practical resources parishes can use to support individuals and families, including models for inclusion, retreats and spiritual companionship.



Doreen's NCEA talk: Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education will be given for Elementary Administrators, Secondary Administrators, and Diocesan Administrators

Madonna was featured in the latest mailing for the L.A. Congress for the two talks she will present there and at NCEA.



Dr. Madonna Wojtaszek-Healy is a seasoned catechist and Catholic schoolteacher, who teaches at St. Mary Immaculate Parish School in Plainfield, Ill. Her own children have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Asperger's syndrome, so she has insight into behavior management and faith formation ... and a wry sense of humor. She has spoken at national principals and special needs conferences, as well as diocesan gatherings. Her book is titled "The ABC's of ADD for Catechists."

Friday, February 22, 2013

10:00 - 11:30 am - Session 1-28

"Everyone's Called to God's Table, Even the Ones Who Can't Sit Still in Their Seats"

An understanding of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and the children diagnosed with this condition will help teachers and catechists evangelize them and their families more effectively. Dr. Wojtaszek-Healy will share insights to manage behaviors and enjoy the gifts these children have.

Saturday, February 23, 2013

1:00 - 2:30 pm - Session 5-27

"God Called Me to Dance, Even if I'm Out of Step"

Full inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the Church benefits us all. Children with autism spectrum disorders can pose behavioral problems in classroom and catechetical settings. Dr. Wojtaszek-Healy will share insights and strategies for evangelizing these children and their families.

NCPD Talks at the Mid-Atlantic Congress

The 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Congress (MAC) in Baltimore, MD will feature several sessions on disability ministry, including a session entitled *Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities, the Deaf & the Hard of Hearing*. For more information visit the Congress website at <http://www.midatlanticcongress.org/>

**Donate
to NCPD**

You can make a difference in the faith lives of individuals who live with a disability by making a small monthly donation to NCPD. \$10, \$20 or \$25 per month will enable NCPD to provide resources to dioceses and parishes to ensure meaningful participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of the Church and society. [Click here to help.](#)

Diocesan Director, Partner, and Organizational News and Notes

A Surprise Event Held to Honor Dorothy Coughlin, Director of Archdiocese of Portland's Office for People with Disabilities and Member of NCPD Council on Mental Illness



As noted in the *Catholic Sentinel*, published by the Archdiocese of Portland, a surprise event was held for Dorothy Coughlin at a Spanish adapted Mass that Dorothy helped to make available. "Coughlin helped found the office in the 1970s, but has advocated for people with disabilities her entire life, starting with her sister, Barbara, who was born with a developmental disability."

"We have all had an opportunity over the years to learn how to love by watching Dorothy, living with Dorothy and celebrating with Dorothy," Father Schiferl said during the service, a bilingual liturgy adapted for people of all abilities. Families from all over the Archdiocese of Portland, even as far away as Grants Pass, gathered Sunday to honor Coughlin during a surprise birthday celebration."

"We began very simply," she said. "And today it fills my heart to see in the Church all of our families who speak English and our Hispanic families together as one family," she said. "I think this is what Jesus meant in the gospel to love one another." For the full article click below.

READ MORE

Kara Favata, Assistant Director for Special Religious Education, Archdiocese of Indianapolis



Kara shares with us an article and photos from her Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Criterion*. “*St. Jude Parish begins inclusion ministry team*” by Mary Ann Garber.

Welcoming children with special needs to religious education classes is one goal of St. Jude Parish’s new inclusion ministry. St. Jude’s faith formation commission also wants to promote more awareness and acceptance of Catholics of all ages who have a large spectrum of special needs and are members of the Indianapolis South Deanery parish. “We’re excited that we get to share Christ with these families,”

St. Jude parishioner Casey Strange of Indianapolis said. “... We want to respond to everyone’s [spiritual] needs.” “...[read more](#).”

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



Check out Tom’s website at <http://catholicdioceseofwichita.org/ministry-with-persons-with-disabilities/ministry-with-persons-with-disabilities-home>. He has worked to upgrade his website pages. Check out his brochures and an online video training they developed for use when teaching about the Mass (and available on Youtube). Tom has scheduled a one-day retreat for mothers of children with disabilities in early April, 2013. Dr. Nancy Thompson from NCPD will be serving as retreat master. We hope to be able to share this model on the NCPD website in the future so others can have access to it.

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

The Archbishop Ryan School for the Deaf celebrated 100 years November 18th.
I wanted to share this with all of you.

[READ MORE](#)

Patricia M. Chivers, Director of Communications and Advocacy, Archdiocese of Atlanta Position Available for Director of Disabilities Ministry

The Office of Communications & Advocacy of the Archdiocese of Atlanta has an opening for a full-time Director of Disabilities Ministry. The Director of Disabilities Ministry's sole responsibility is to implement within the Archdiocese of Atlanta, the *Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities* that calls for the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the church and its related activities. Click on the button to the left for more details.

[MORE DETAILS](#)

Vatican/ USCCB / Federal News and Updates

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering: February 10-13, 2013

On behalf of our 16 national [Catholic partner organizations](#), we invite you to join us in Washington, D.C. for the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, this upcoming February 10-13, 2013 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park hotel. The theme this year will be *Promoting Human Life and Dignity in the Year of Faith*.



Some scholarships are available for people with disabilities through the diversity outreach initiative. Click here for details.

[MORE DETAILS](#)

Filing Federal and State Taxes if you are or know a person with disability

Information in these two pieces will provide helpful information that is hard to find. Click below to read and download them both:

[Mythbuster's](#)

[Vita Newsletter Article](#)

Resources

Article and Links on Epilepsy for November's Awareness Commemoration

Insights of a Catholic with epilepsy.

[Click here](#) for the full story.

First Aid for Seizures

To help raise awareness and be informed, attached is a web-page from the National Epilepsy Foundation on First Aid for Seizures.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Monica's Pics from Be Not Afraid, ministry for parents receiving a poor prenatal diagnosis (PPD)



Monica Rafie has identified four new articles she wants to bring to the attention of NCPD readers to continue to help us expand our understanding of issues related to serving parents who have received a PPD. This kind of outreach is springing up around the country in many dioceses through the efforts and sponsorship of your offices.

[READ MORE](#)

Awareness Commemorations

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

November Commemorations

- National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month
- National Diabetes Month
- National Epilepsy Awareness Month

December Commemorations

- December is World AIDS Day (December 1st)
- United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3rd)

Resources for Persons with Disabilities for Roman Missal, Third Edition

[MORE DETAILS](#)



Welcoming the
ROMAN MISSAL THIRD EDITION
Deepen. Nurture. Celebrate

NCPD Resources

See the links listed below for helpful resources.



[Catechesis](#)

[Ministry Specific Resources](#)

[Various Ministry Models](#)

[Spirituality](#)

[Ministry Toolkit](#)

[Building Awareness](#)

To see more 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

2013 NCEA Teaching Exceptional Learners Conference

Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2013
Sheraton Tampa Riverwalk Hotel
Tampa, Florida

[MORE DETAILS](#)

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

Promoting Human Life and Dignity in the Year of Faith

USCCB and 16 Partner Organizations

February 10-13, 2013

Washington, DC

Washington Marriott Wardman Park hotel.

On behalf of our 16 national [Catholic partner organizations](#), we invite you to join us in Washington, D.C. for the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering.

[MORE DETAILS](#)

Winter Retreat

Sponsored by the Victorious Missionaries

Feb. 15-17, 2013

Presenter: Sr. Colleen Mallon, OP

Contact: Br. Tom Ruhmann, O.M.I., VM National Director

truhmann@oblatesusa.org

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress 2013

February 22-24, 2013

Anaheim Convention Center

Anaheim, CA

[MORE DETAILS](#)

[Click here to register.](#)

Mid Atlantic Congress

March 7-9, 2013
Baltimore Hilton Hotel
Baltimore, MD

[MORE DETAILS](#)

NCEA 2013 Convention in conjunction with the National Association of Parish Catechetical Directors (NPCD)

April 2-4, 2013
George Brown Convention Center
Houston, TX

[MORE DETAILS](#)

[Click here to register.](#)

Ignite the Fire of Faith - Enciende el Fuego de Fe NCCL

May 19-23, 2013
Cleveland, OH

[MORE DETAILS](#)

NCPD National Conference

November 1-3, 2013
Houston, TX
More details to come.

[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).

Contents may be freely reproduced; a credit line is appreciated.

Visit our Website: www.ncpd.org