



NCPD E-News

March 2012

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Awareness

April is Autism Awareness Month

April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day

Let us join together once again to make it Autism Awareness Month in Parishes & Dioceses!

Bring this information to your Bishop so he is aware of your efforts to support the people of your diocese. The first link leads to many additional resources for pastoral and catechetical staff. Most resources can also be used to support those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Use the press release for your diocesan papers.

Find the resources below at our easy-to-remember link:

Autism Resource Page	Link
Parent Interview Form	
Strategies for Catechetical Instruction for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder	
Strategic Components for Successfully Working with Individuals with ASD	
A Prayer of St. Francis for Autism	
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Press Release - Autism Awareness Month for Parishes and Dioceses	

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April's National
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NCPD Resources

March and April are both designated as Disability Awareness Months

- **March is known as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**
- **March is Brain Injury Awareness Month**

Find creative and varied ways to highlight disability awareness in your parishes and dioceses. Ask your diocesan newspaper to feature articles they pick up on CNS and ones that you write or give them (see our press release for Autism Awareness Month above).

Put short announcements in your parish bulletin. Do a feature on Saints with disabilities or about a disability advocate who has entered the canonization process (see feature below). Pull prayers or petitions off our website to use at Mass, to share in your bulletin, or to use as an opening or closing prayer for a parish meeting during the month. In our national survey on The State of Ministry for those with Autism and their Families, the biggest need that the nearly 500 responding parishes identified was for parish awareness of disability! Don't underestimate the impact your efforts for awareness can have. It can be one of the simplest yet most impacting things you do in your ministry.

People who Experience Disabilities Speak

Check out this 7 ½ minute documentary with 35 persons with developmental disabilities from different backgrounds answering one question: "If you change one thing about yourself, what would you change?"

<http://sproutflix.org/content/one-question>



Experience these parent's pictorial account on Youtube of their beautiful son, Jonathan, as he brings life and goodness to all whom he meets. Editor's note: My adult son, Larry, born with multiple disabilities, was also born with a cleft lip, like Jonathan. Larry is 44 and still brings goodness and life to all whom he meets!



[If you have a pulse...you have a purpose.](#)

Jonathan's story

[Calendar of Events](#)

Archived E-News

[Click here](#)

Persons with Disabilities and their Advocates Canonized or in the Process for Canonization

Dr. Jérôme Lejeune This spring, the Archdiocese of Paris will officially conclude the diocesan phase of the cause of canonization for Dr. Jérôme Lejeune (1926-1994). Dr. Lejeune was a Catholic doctor and researcher known as the father of modern genetics who discovered the cause of Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21). Dr. Lejeune was also known for his deep respect for life. Inspired by a deep belief that a cure for trisomy 21 would be found one day and that medicine has a duty to serve society's weakest members, Lejeune dedicated his life to research and to caring for the intellectually disabled, even though he became defamed and shunned by his colleges and the press for his pro-life stance.

Kateri Tekakwitha—Saint with Visual Impairment from Smallpox

Kahnawake's Kateri Tekakwitha to be canonized: First Native American Saint.

The Mohawk community of Kahnawake is welcoming the news that Kateri Tekakwitha, known as the “Lily of the Mohawks,” will be named a saint. Tekakwitha, born in 1656 to a Mohawk father and an Algonquin mother, is entombed inside the St. Francis-Xavier Church in Kahnawake. She will be the first Native American saint.

Tekakwitha lived most of her life in what is now upstate New York and converted to Catholicism at the age of 20. She experienced war and pestilence at a young age. In 1666, her village was burned down by French forces. Her mother, father and younger brother died during the 1661-62 smallpox epidemic. Tekakwitha survived, but the disease damaged her eyesight and left her face scarred. NCCL Catechetical Leader Weekly (CL Weekly, Feb. 2012)



NCPD News and Notes

NCPD Executive Director Receives Harry A. Fagan Award



Click

<http://catholicroundtable.org/blog/2012/02/fagan-award-recipient-inspires-and-challenges-roundtable-members/> to read a blog about Jan Benton's talk at the presentation to her of the 2012 Harry A. Fagan Award.

[Watch video clips from Jan's address and Roundtable member Jerry Freewalt's tribute to Jan.](#)

NCPD presentations at Mid-Atlantic Congress for Pastoral Leadership

Baltimore Hilton Hotel in the Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD March 8–10, 2012. Jan Benton will present a Master Class and two Break-Out Sessions on *All God's People: Ministering with People Disabilities*.

For more information, go to:

https://www.midatlanticcongress.org/images/MAC_flyer_0711.pdf

Announcing a **NEW** Pastoral Conference
for **ALL** your Parish Ministers

Mid-Atlantic
Congress
FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Mark your calendars now for *Witness Hope! Sea Testigo de la Esperanza!*
the Mid-Atlantic Congress for Pastoral Leadership
Baltimore Hilton Hotel in the Inner Harbor
March 8–10, 2012

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

On Tuesday, April 17, 2012, Jan Benton and Dr. Nancy Thompson will present a day-long seminar: "Collaborating with Pastoral Staffs to Create Welcoming and Inclusive Parishes."

NCPD to Convene SW Diocesan Leaders in Disability Ministry

On Fri., May 4 at 3:00 p.m. we will gather for introductions, at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego, then move on to dinner and informal conversation prior to our next two days of more formal meetings.

NCPD's Pre-Conference Meeting at NCCL

NCPD staff and members of their National Autism Task Force will join with disability ministry staff from southwestern dioceses and host a pre-conference gathering to the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Annual Conference in San Diego on **Saturday, May 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, May 6, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

Activities will be held on Saturday at the Diocese of San Diego Pastoral Center. (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 details about the NCPD pre-conference schedule at NCCL.**



[MORE DETAILS](#)

NCPD staff presenting at NCCL in San Diego, May 8

Learning Session: Addressing Special Needs in Rural Parishes.

Two Roundtables:

Meeting the Catechetical Needs of Students with Disabilities and

Meeting the Catechetical Needs of Students with Autism and IDD.

The current issue of **CL Weekly – Special Conference Edition** (2012-02-08) is now available in two formats. Click the format you prefer to learn all about the NCCL conference.

[\(WORD\)](#) / [\(PDF\)](#)

Prenatal Diagnosis Webinar Toolkit

An important addition has been made to our Prenatal Diagnosis Webinar Toolkit: An article by Monica Rafie and Tracy Winsor from *Ethics & Medics, A Commentary of the National Catholic Bioethics Center on Health Care and the Life Sciences*. Click on the button below and scroll down to “Hope after Poor Prenatal Diagnosis” and click on that link.

[CLICK HERE](#)



[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

Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, Kennedy Foundation Public Policy Fellowship 2012-2013

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation is seeking exemplary professionals and/or family members of persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are currently working or volunteering in the field of inclusive services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for an intensive one-year Public Policy Fellowship in Washington, D.C.

To read more...

[CLICK HERE](#)

Peg Kolm, Coordinator, *Office for Ministry with Persons with Disabilities*, Archdiocese of Washington

You are invited to save the date and attend their Fourth Annual Conference on Faith, Deafness and Disabilities that will be held Saturday, April 21 from 8:15-4:45 p.m.

[Click here for flyer.](#)

Deacon Don Grossnickle, Director Disability Outreach Vicariate 1, Archdiocese of Chicago

“...Twelve years ago, this 63-year-old Chicago minister and educator was called to the bedside of a [suicidal](#) teenager named Rocky Clark. Clark, 19, was a former high school football star who'd broken his neck the previous year and desperately needed [spiritual](#) guidance. Trapped inside a frozen body without hope of physical recovery, Rocky believed that he had no reason to live. When Rocky refused to eat, doctors had been forced to insert a feeding tube into his abdomen.

Deacon Don, who resembles St. Nick and is fond of superlatives, arrived at the Rehabilitation Center of Chicago that day accompanied by Rob Komosa, a paralyzed, 18-year old athlete with whom he was already working (Komosa had suffered a football tackle fracture of the spinal cord the year before). Rob navigated his 600-pound, sip-and-puff-controlled wheelchair into the room. "Rocky was physically alive but emotionally broken," Deacon Don tells me, "bewildered, overwhelmed, and inescapably trapped." Nonetheless, he began to perk up as Komosa talked about his own experience. ...”

READ MORE

2- 26-2012 by [Mark Matousek](#) in [Ethical Wisdom](#), *Psychology Today* magazine.

Bill Gaventa, Coordinator, Community and Congregational Supports, The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

MP3 audio-files from the 2011 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability are now up on our website. In the section for each summer, you will also find an index that lists the presentations by year and speaker as well as another combined index by theological discipline (some overlap disciplines).

MORE DETAILS

Tracy Winsor, BeNotAfraidNC and Monica Raffie, Benotafraid.net

This is the second in a series of links we will share over the next 12 months offering “Monica’s picks” of interesting articles regarding research and/or features about prenatal diagnosis. You will note that we offer both a link to the article as well as a brief description of topic.

CLICK HERE



Janell Lavender, Department for Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf Apostolate, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

All are Welcome to the Annual Archdiocesan Eucharist Celebration Honoring the Gifts of Persons with Disabilities, The Deaf Community, Family, Friends and Caregivers. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul at 18th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., will be the principal celebrant and homilist. There will be a light reception immediately following.

To RSVP and for more information contact Janell Lavender at 215-587-3530 (voice), 267-507-1215 (video phone for the Deaf), email: jlavende@adphila.org or www.archphila.org.

Christina Desmarais, Director - Options Program, Paul VI Catholic High School, Fairfax, VA

All are invited to an Open House at Paul VI to learn more about Options. The program's mission statement reads: "Options provides a quality modified inclusive education in a Catholic Christian environment for high school age students with intellectual disabilities. PVI Options nurtures the maturation of inquisitive, creative, confident and motivated students. The goal is to maximize students' potential while enabling their independence. Check out the Paul VI website at www.paulvi.net and the Options web page <http://www.paulvi.net/Page.aspx?pid=333>.

For more information about the Options Program contact Chris at 703-352-0925 Ext. 333. Brochure:

[MORE DETAILS](#)

Plan ahead to attend the NAMI FaithNet Networking Session and workshops

The 2012 NAMI National Convention will be held at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel, June 27-30.

[READ MORE](#)



March's Inclusion Tip: Beatitudes of Acceptance

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

"Blessed are you who ask for my help and realize my giftedness, for my greatest need is to be needed."

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

IRS Offers Tax Tips in ASL

Tax tips and answers to questions about tax returns. The [IRS YouTube channel](#) features videos produced by the IRS on various tax administration topics in American Sign Language (ASL).

[CLICK HERE](#)

Write to Congress Today

The U.S. Bishops have serious objections to the "preventive services" regulation issued in August by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). Study the issue & then write to Congress urging support for the *Respect for Rights of Conscience Act* [here](#).

[CLICK HERE](#)

Resources

April's National Disability Commemorations

We occasionally receive calls about monthly commemorations of disability issues and will list them, one month ahead, for your convenience. Below are some of the commemorations for April.

April is:

Autism Awareness Month

World Autism Awareness Day (April 2)

Disability Awareness Month (March and April)

Resources for Persons with Disabilities for Roman Missal, Third Edition

[MORE DETAILS](#)



NCPD Resources

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

[CLICK HERE](#)

National Catholic Network on Mental Illness - Sign Up Now

[Sign-up!](#)

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

Calendar of Events

Mid-Atlantic Congress for Pastoral Leadership

Baltimore Hilton Hotel in the Inner Harbor
March 8–10, 2012

NCPD Executive Director will present a Master Class and two Breakout Sessions.

[FLYER](#)

Annual Mass and Reception for Persons with Disabilities

Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Saturday, March 10, 2012, 11:00 a.m.
Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul
Celebrant: Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
jlavende@adphila.org or www.archphila.org

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress

Anaheim, CA
March 22, 2012 (Youth Day)
March 23-25, 2012

[FLYER](#)

[NCCL 76th Annual Conference and Exposition](#)

(May 6-10, 2012)
Town and Country, San Diego, California

NCPD Pre-conference Meeting for Disability Ministry

May 5-6, 2012

Fourth Annual Conference on Faith, Deafness and Disabilities

Office for Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, Archdiocese of Washington
Saturday, April 21 from 8:15-4:45 p.m.

[CLICK HERE](#)

NAMI FaithNet Networking Session and workshops

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

[CLICK HERE](#)

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

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