



# NCPD

NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARTNERSHIP ON DISABILITY

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September, 2010

Dear Friend in Christ:

October approaches with our annual commemoration of Respect Life Month. **We are writing to ask that you participate in an important online training (webinar) on Tuesday, October 5 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm EDT, on supporting families who receive a prenatal diagnosis of a disability or lethal condition, and encourage others to join you. The webinar, sponsored by the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD), will be held in front of a live audience at The Catholic University of America.** More information is in the attached flyer and at [ncpd.org](http://ncpd.org). As a longtime member of NCPD's Board of Directors, and its current Episcopal Moderator, I can attest to the quality of their ministry efforts.

As you may know, the abortion rate for these kinds of pregnancies is alarmingly high... up to 90% of mothers ultimately make a choice against life, including even Catholic women. A recent study showed that when support is provided to the expectant parents, the abortion rate drops significantly. We know from experience that a priest, deacon, or pastoral staff member is generally the first person sought out. But they oftentimes feel ill equipped to counsel these families and counter the technical and compelling language of the medical community. This webinar will equip you to respond to these needs, and will provide an online toolkit with free downloadable resources.

This important webinar will be presented by NCPD in collaboration with the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, The Catholic University of America, the National Council of Catholic Women, and the Archdiocese of Washington. NCPD has put together a strong panel to present our Catholic teaching on this issue. The moderator will be **Dr. Marie Hilliard**, Director of Bioethics and Public Policy, National Catholic Bioethics Center, Philadelphia, PA. Presenters include: **Dr. John Bruchalski**, OB/GYN, Tepeyac Family Care Center, Fairfax, VA; **Fr. Dan Mindling, OFM Cap.**, Theologian, Academic Dean, Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD; **Mrs. Tracy Winsor**, Parent Support Specialist, Charlotte, NC; and **Mrs. Monica Rafie**, parent of a surviving child, and founder of BeNotAfraid.net, Chicago, IL.

We earnestly recommend this timely and valuable production. Please share the attached flyer with all those who need this information. If your diocese is a current Affiliate Member of NCPD, you may attend the webinar free of charge (all others pay \$30 per logged-in computer). Check [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org) to determine your eligibility.

We encourage you to use this webinar as part of your Respect Life Month observation. Should the date and time conflict with other priorities, a replay version will be available for use at any time on the NCPD website by mid October.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo  
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston  
Episcopal Moderator, NCPD  
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

Janice L. Benton  
Executive Director, NCPD