



March 15, 2024

Dear Brother in Christ,

I pray that your Lenten journey has been a fruitful time of prayer and renewal. You may recall that at our June 2023 meeting in Orlando we voted to draft a new pastoral statement on persons with disabilities. I was elated by this vote because of my role as the Episcopal Moderator for the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) – the disability resource for the U.S. Church that requested this new statement.

I am writing to you today asking that you partner with NCPD in 2024 to advance disability resources in the national Church and ensure one-on-one support to your diocese. In this way, we can help assure that persons with disabilities have access to the sacraments, can participate in parish events, and are welcome in Catholic schools.

I respectfully ask that you consider partnering with NCPD as an Affiliate Diocese by including a \$1,500 membership fee in your budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

NCPD depends on the Affiliate Membership to continue its highly specialized ministry in the Church—it does not receive any funding from the USCCB. Affiliates benefit from free monthly training for diocesan leaders, discounts on online courses about topics such as sacramental preparation, liturgical access, and mental health. This year, a record-breaking number of dioceses joined NCPD's Affiliate program, which is a testament to its value in the U.S. Church.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of joining NCPD as an Affiliate member this upcoming year. May you and all entrusted to your pastoral care be blessed this Lent with a growing awareness of God's presence in your lives.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington
NCPD Episcopal Moderator

P.S. Enclosed is a form for you to return with your membership fee. Charleen Katra, NCPD Executive Director, can be reached at (771) 203-4477, if needed.

CHARLEEN R. KATRA
Executive Director

NCPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* MOST REV. MICHAEL F. BURBIDGE
Episcopal Moderator
Bishop of Arlington, VA

* LEO ZANCHETTIN
Chairperson Frederick, MD

* RICK SPENCER, CPA
Treasurer Kensington, MD

* COLLEEN MCCOY-CEJKA
Secretary Scottsdale, AZ

ARACELY BAEZA
Oklahoma City, OK

MOST REV. BRENDAN J. CAHILL, S.T.D.
Bishop of Victoria, TX

FREDERICK CABRAS, OFM Cap.
Chicago, IL

MARIE HILLIARD, J.C.L., Ph.D., R.N.
Washington, DC

KEVIN JOHNSON
Orlando, FL

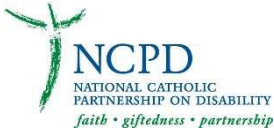
MARY O'CALLAGHAN, Ph.D.
Notre Dame, IN

JAMES POLIS
Arlington, VA

FR. PAUL ZIRIMENYA
San Francisco, CA

* Executive Committee

REV. MICHAEL J.K. FULLER
General Secretary, USCCB
USCCB Liaison to NCPD



2024-2025 (July–June) NCPD AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

Please complete and return this form with your fee.

Name: _____ Arch/Bishop of: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is our 2024-2025 NCPD Affiliate Membership Fee: \$ _____
(**\$1,500 Requested**)

Please mail check made payable to “NCPD” to:
NCPD, 415 Michigan Ave. N.E., Ste. 95, Washington, DC 20017-4501

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) provides clergy, pastoral, and educational staff with resources and training, faithful to Church teaching, on issues related to systematic, sacramental, and liturgical access for Catholics with disabilities. NCPD advocates daily for the full sacramental and social inclusion of the estimated 15 million Catholics living with a disability in the U.S.

NCPD was founded 42 years ago with a grant from the Catholic Bishops’ Home Missions Office to implement the *US Catholic Bishops’ 1978 Pastoral Statement on People with Disabilities*. **NCPD relies upon your Arch/Diocesan Affiliate Membership fee of \$1,500 to support our programming and educational materials**, in addition to the generous support of foundations and individuals. NCPD works closely with USCCB offices to provide relevant resources and pastoral training which supports diocesan disability ministry.

NOTE: We request that Your Excellency provide contact information below for the individual on your staff primarily responsible for ensuring access and inclusion for members of your local Church who have a disability. This person will be listed on NCPD’s website:

Name*: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

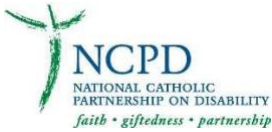
Website: _____

***If your Arch/Diocese has an additional staff person(s) who you want included in our database, please also provide us with their contact information.**

Visit NCPD: www.ncpd.org Email NCPD: ncpd@ncpd.org Call NCPD: (771) 203-4477

Please mail check made payable to “NCPD” to:
NCPD, 415 Michigan Ave. N.E., Ste. 95, Washington, DC 20017-4501

Thank you!



Affiliate Benefits

NCPD Affiliates partner with leaders and lay ministers devoted to disability ministry. Affiliates participate in monthly Affiliate Connect meetings and receive ongoing support so that they are up to date on the latest ministry models and resources.

Affiliate benefits include:

Connections with National Leaders

Engage in monthly Affiliate Connect conversations with national leaders about disability-related topics. Past meeting topics:

Digital Accessibility - Peter McNally, Senior Consultant at Bentley University's User Experience Center

Protecting Vulnerable Children, Youth and Adults - Deacon Bernard Nojadera, Executive Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Human Sexuality Catechesis for Persons with Disabilities – Dr. Claire Kilbane and Dr. Mary O'Callaghan from the University of Notre Dame

Federal Legislation Concerning Disability – Ingrid Delgado and Julie Bodnar, Policy Advisors at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Networking with Fellow Diocesan Leaders

Converse monthly with diocesan directors who address disability to exchange ideas, share success stories, and ask questions.

Consultations with NCPD Staff

Meet with staff for individualized support.

Complimentary Disability Resources

Receive the latest books, tools, and other resources related to disability.

Discounts on NCPD Programing

Pay less for in-person or virtual trainings, online courses, and event tickets.

Advanced Notice for NCPD Programing

Hear about disability ministry events ahead of time to promote more effectively.

“When I began this ministry, I did not know where to start. NCPD was a hidden treasure. I really felt like I was not alone in beginning this ministry.”

Patty Origer, Diocese of Des Moines
NCPD Affiliate