NCPD
NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARTNERSHIP ON DISABILITY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The National Catholic Partnership on Disability Names Susan McNeil, M.Div., Executive Director



WASHINGTON, D.C. —
The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) has named Susan McNeil, M.Div., as its Executive Director, effective December 12, 2026, following a national search conducted by Catholic Recruiter Associates. The NCPD Governance Board of Directors made the appointment with the support of the organization's Episcopal Moderator, the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington.

McNeil joins NCPD from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, where she served as Director of the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity and as the archdiocese's Interfaith and Ecumenical Officer. In this position, she directed ten major initiatives, including conferences, convenings, and offered several keynote addresses. She secured several sizable grants and donations to support her office's ministry and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Through both her professional and personal experience with persons with disabilities, she brings with her a compassionate ear, an empathetic heart, and a desire to ensure full inclusion and participation of all persons with disabilities within the Church.

"I am very happy to welcome Susan McNeil into the NCPD family. Her expertise, her prayerful compassion, and her listening heart are exactly what NCPD needs as we work toward the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Church and society. I am deeply grateful to Charleen Katra for all she has accomplished, and I can say with confidence that she leaves NCPD in good hands. I'm looking forward to seeing how NCPD continues to grow under Susan's leadership," said Leo Zanchettin, Chair of the NCPD Governance Board of Directors.

“I am honored to join NCPD in this sacred work, because every person is created in the image of God and brings gifts the Church needs. As a mother and a minister, I have seen how much it means when a parish says, ‘You belong here.’ I look forward to listening first, and then to growing our partnerships with dioceses, parishes and the Church’s many cultural communities, so that every person with a disability knows they are welcomed, valued and needed,” said Susan McNeil.

McNeil succeeds Charleen Katra, who has served as Executive Director since 2019 and who has tirelessly worked to advocate, educate, and support the US Church in advancing full inclusion of persons with disabilities.

“I commend and thank Charleen Katra for her faithful and dedicated service as Executive Director of NCPD and for her tireless efforts in advancing its mission and assisting dioceses and parishes in responding effectively and pastorally to persons with disabilities. I am confident that Susan McNeil brings the experience, commitment, vision, and dedication necessary to enhance the work of NCPD and look forward to collaborating with her,” said the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington and Episcopal Moderator of NCPD.

About NCPD

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability works with dioceses, parishes, families and partner organizations across the United States so that persons with disabilities are welcomed and included in the full life of the Catholic Church. NCPD was founded in 1982 by the USCCB. Learn more at ncpd.org.