

August Disability E News

Dear Parish Advocates and Ministry Partners,

August is

August is Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month

Prayers of the Faithful . . .

For people who move slowly because of accident, illness or disability, and for those who move too fast to be aware of the world in which they live, we pray.

Prayers of the Faithful

For people who may feel isolated by their disabilities, and for people who contribute to that sense of isolation, we pray . . .

In this issue

Register for three upcoming webinars

Symbolic Catechesis and Other Tools in Catechetical Ministry with Students with Disabilities

Threats to the Lives of People with Disability, Part II: Physician Assisted Suicide

How can we help? Parish Support for Veterans and Their Families

Upcoming Events in the Diocese of Richmond

What our Disability Parish Advocates are doing.

Government/Legislative News and Notes

Resources

Catechetical Sunday Resources

Pflaum Publishing Accommodations for students with special learning needs

Roman Missal, Third Edition Adaptations for Catholics with Disabilities

A Place for All: Classroom Management for all Types of Learners

New Curriculum for Person with Disabilities

Program Meetings

National Catholic Partnership with Disabilities (NCPD) News

From the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD)

Registration is open for our 2011 Webinar Series. Registration is now open. Click on flyer button(s) below or go to the NCPD website at www.ncpd.org.

The webinars are free because the Diocese of Richmond is an affiliate member.

Also the webinars are archived one to two weeks after they are aired and can be viewed. To access an archived webinar go to www.ncpd.org.

Tuesday, September 13, 2011; 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

Symbolic Catechesis and Other Tools in Catechetical Ministry with Students with Disabilities



Presenters:

Fr. Bill Gillum, OFM Cap., M.Ed., Director of Pastoral Care, McGuire Memorial

Mary Mirrione, MAPS-CGS, National Director, National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

FLYER

Moderator:

Lee Nagel, Executive Director, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

Partners with NCPD:

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Consulting with NCPD:

**National Catholic Office for the Deaf (NCOD)
Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), Justice and Peace
National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry (NAfIM)**

Tuesday, September 20, 2011; 4:00-5:00 p.m. ET

Threats to the Lives of People with Disability, Part II: Physician Assisted Suicide



Presenters:

**Richard Doerflinger, Associate Director,
United States Conference of Catholic
Bishops, Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities**

FLYER

**Fr. Dan Mindling, OFM Cap, Theologian, Academic Dean, Mt.
St. Mary's Seminary**

**Sr. Janice McGrane, S.S.J., author, national presenter,
disability self-advocate and leader**

Moderator:

Jerry Freewalt, Program Director, Office of Social Concerns, Diocese of Columbus

Partners with NCPD:

**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB),
Secretariat of Pro-life Activities, and
Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development**

Consulting with NCPD:

**National Catholic Office for the Deaf (NCOD)
Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), Justice and Peace.**

National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry (NAfIM)

Tuesday, October 18, 2011; 4:00-5:00 p.m. ET

How can we help? Parish Support for Veterans and Their Families



Presenters:

Fr. Rick Curry, S.J., Faculty, Catholic Studies-Theater, Founder, Academy for Veterans, Georgetown University

FLYER

Jim Boehnlein, MD, Psychiatrist, Professor of Psychiatry, Oregon Health and Science University and Associate Director for Education, VA Northwest Network Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC), Portland, OR

Fr. Rick Sirianni, Pastor, St. Thomas More Parish, Portland, OR, Chaplain (Retired July 2011), Oregon Air National Guard

Moderator:

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

Partners with NCPD:

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

Secretariat of Pro-life Activities

Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development

Consulting with NCPD:

National Catholic Office for the Deaf (NCOD)

Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), Justice and Peace. National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry (NAfIM)

To see the resources available from NCPD click the button on the right.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Make sure you have DVD's of the webinars to use for Catechist formation meetings with your volunteers for disability ministry as you kick off the new catechetical year!!!!!!



NCPD has a growing library of Webinar DVDs.

Upcoming Events in the Diocese of Richmond

Aug. 17, 6:30 pm – Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Newport News. Information sessions for potential S.P.R.E.D (Special Religious Education Development) volunteers and friends. Members of the team will be present to share their experiences, joys and challenges of the past year, and the gifts received from our

friends. If you have a special place in your heart for our brothers and sisters with intellectual disabilities, please join us. To learn more about SPRED, contact Dave Dwyer, 757-817-5960 or Christa Blomstrom 757-595-0385 ext. 119.

Sept. 17, 2011 – Outreach In Love Friends & Family Picnic, St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, 2700 Dolfield Dr., After the 5 pm Mass in the Picnic Grove. Please bring a dish to share. RSVP a Must – Joan Congable Mackay 804 501-0022 or outreachinlove@yahoo.com

Sunday, September 18, 12:30 PM - 3 PM – Friends of L'Arche Central Virginia Second Annual Picnic at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Glen Allen. For information contact Cheryl Emory cherylemory@comcast.net or call at 804-747-4486 .

Oct. 5, 2011 – Outreach in Love Opening Mass, St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, 2700 Dolfield Dr., 7 pm.

Alzheimers Walk - Walk either one or three mile routes at one of the following locations:

Sept. 10, 10:00 a.m. – Fredericksburg – Hurkamp Park

Sept. 17, 10:00 a.m. - Gloucester, Botetourt Elementary School

Oct. 1, 10:00 a.m. - Richmond, Innsbrook (Markel Plaza, 4600 Cox Rd.)

Thursday, September 22nd, 10:00am at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, Newport News, **Faith Inclusion Network seminar/luncheon.** The award winning documentary, "***A Place for All- Faith and Community for Persons with Disabilities***" will be shown, followed by conversation on including people with disabilities in their faith communities. For more information, contact Karen Jackson at faithinclusionnetwork@gmail.com

October 20 and 21, 2011, Developing Local Service: The BNA Model of Care First Annual Service Providers' Conference, St. Gabriel Catholic Church Charlotte, NC
benotafraidnc@live.com

FLYER

Sunday, Oct. 30, 2011 The Diocese of Richmond will celebrate Inaugural White Masses honoring the giftedness of persons with special needs. “By reason of their baptism, all Catholics are equal in dignity in the sight of God and have the same divine calling.” The Masses have the designation white because of that color’s connection to Baptism. There will be receptions following the Masses. All are invited!

The Masses will be held at the following Churches. [Click here for flyer](#)

Central Vicariate

Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond
October 30th – 11:15 am

Eastern Vicariate

Church of the Resurrection, Portsmouth
October 30th – 5:00 pm

Star of the Sea, Virginia Beach
October 30th – 11:30 am

Western Vicariate

Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke
October 30th – 11:30 am

In the weeks following the White Masses, there will be Life Affirming Ministry/Initiatives workshops, **Building a Culture of Life** which will focus on disability awareness and the following 5 initiatives/ministries: Be Not Afraid; Disability Awareness for Youth; Christian Formation Support; Christian Support Groups/Social Clubs; and Mental Illness Awareness. We have given the workshops the color green to designate hope and life.

Building a Culture of Life: Affirming Life Initiatives/Ministries

Central Vicariate – Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond Mon., Nov. 14th,
7 PM

Eastern Vicariate – Church of the Resurrection, Portsmouth, Wed., Nov 2,
6:15 PM
Nov. 8, 6:30 PM

Star of the Sea, Virginia Beach, Tue.,

Western Vicariate- St. Mary, Blacksburg, Wed., Nov 9, 6:30 PM

The purpose of the workshops will be to raise disability awareness and to educate and encourage volunteers from each vicariate to participate in any of the five initiatives/ministries. For more information, contact Nita Grignol at 804 622-5260 or at ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org [Click here for Building a Culture of Life flyer](#)

Disability Parish Advocates

Thank you **Melissa Costanzo and Deb Temple**, Parish Advocates for St. Michael the Archangel, Richmond for hosting a Disability Gathering on July 29th. The individuals with disabilities participated in fun and games while the parents listened to 2 speakers who discussed services for people with intellectual disabilities and services for people with mental illness. All the attendees enjoyed the popcorn, cookies, and ice cream sundaes.

Government/Legislative News and Notes

CALL TO ACTION: Urge support of the *Respect for Rights of Conscience Act* in response to new HHS Requirements to Provide Sterilizations, Contraceptives, and Abortifacients

The recent mandate by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that private health plans be required to cover all FDA-approved contraceptives under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has caused a great deal of concern and alarm for Catholic healthcare agencies across the country. The mandate requires Catholic healthcare facilities and insurance carriers to provide services contrary to Catholic Church teaching. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and NCPD Episcopal Moderator, states “Catholics are not alone in conscientiously objecting to this mandate. The drugs that Americans would be forced to subsidize under the new rule include Ella, which was approved by the FDA as an ‘emergency contraceptive’ but can act like the abortion drug RU-486. It can abort

PRESS RELEASE

an established pregnancy weeks after conception. The pro-

life majority of Americans – Catholics and others – would be outraged to learn that their premiums must be used for this purpose”.

See full USCCB press release.

In a letter to the editor



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

[READ MORE](#)

in the August 6 Washington Post Sister Mary Ann Walsh, director of media relations for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, stated "**HHS defines Catholic ministry as service by Catholics for Catholics. This means the only way a Catholic agency could remain true to its religious identity — and maintain a religious exemption — would be to refuse treatment to people who aren't Catholic and to hire only Catholics. It is not up to HHS to decide which teachings are valid for a church.**"

[READ MORE](#)

CALL TO ACTION: The mandate issued by HHS demonstrates the need for a renewed call for protections for the conscience of healthcare workers.

Urge your congressperson to support the *Respect for Rights of Conscience Act* (H.R. 1179). As Cardinal DiNardo reminds us, “Those who sponsor, purchase

and issue health plans should not be forced to violate their deeply held moral and religious convictions in order to take part in the health care system or provide for the needs of their families or their employees. To force such an unacceptable choice would be as much a threat to universal access to health care as it is to freedom of conscience.”

[CLICK HERE](#)

We urge you to contact your elected official at the "Click Here" link to voice your support for the protection of conscience related to religious freedom.

More Heart Disease `Conditions Added to Social Security's Fast-Track System



Compassionate Allowances

Social Security Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, announced 12 additional Compassionate Allowances

conditions involving severe heart diseases, bringing the total number of conditions in the expedited disability process to 100. Details of the announcement are discussed in their [press release](#). The

Compassionate Allowances initiative is one of two parts of the agency's fast-track system for certain disability claims. When combined with the Quick Disability Determination process, Social Security approved more

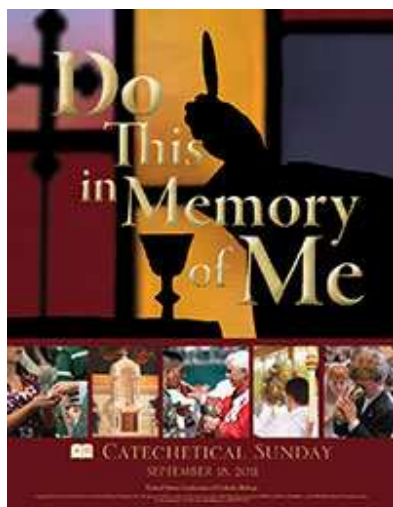
[For more information click here.](#)

than 100,000 cases last year, usually in less than two weeks. This year, the agency expects to fast-track nearly 150,000 cases. For more information about the agency's Compassionate Allowances initiative,

please see link.

Resources

Catechetical Sunday Resources



The USCCB website states "This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 18, 2011, and will focus on the theme "Do This in Memory of Me."

[RESOURCES – CLICK HERE](#)

Those whom the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry.

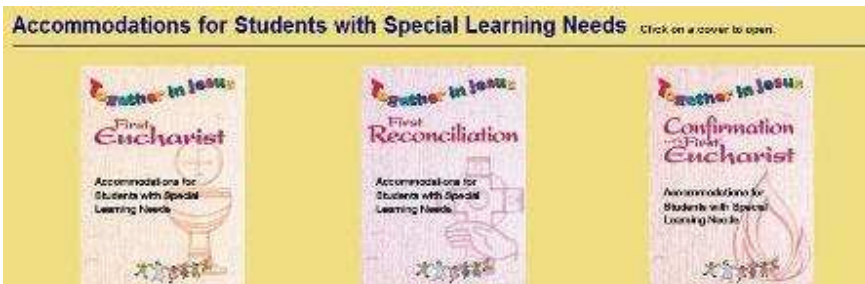
Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith."

Good for you, Pflaum Publishing!

Pflaum Publishing has included suggested accommodations for

students with special learning needs, for their

Together in Jesus sacramental preparation materials, on their website. You will find it on their website listed under the Guides and Manuals section on the main webpage at www.pflaum.com.



[MORE DETAILS](#)

Roman Missal, Third Edition Adaptations for Catholics with Disabilities

See this Diocesan Disability Website for links regarding the adaptations.

<http://www.richmonddiocese.org/disabilities/access.htm>

In addition to serving as a training tool for Sign Language Interpreters, this project will also be a valuable resource for Deaf Adult Formation classes, Small Group discussion groups, and Religious Education classes for the Deaf, and more.

For use with Sign Language Interpreters, this model is intended to communicate the concepts in the text through: Choice of appropriate ASL signs; Use of space; Directionality; Eye gaze; and Facial "expression" (affect/mood).

August's Inclusion Tip:

Supporting Returning Veterans

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



TIP SHEET

“The road home from war is longer, steeper and often more challenging than the road to war for most soldiers and their families. ... Yellow ribbons are nice and much appreciated. Love, support and a ‘cup of cold water’, however, is the incarnational gift of Christ, through His Church, to the combat veteran and family.”

A Place for All: Classroom Management for all Types of Learners

from Charleen Katra* A NEW formation opportunity that we are excited to offer in Galveston-Houston this year is *A Place for All*. It will present classroom management philosophy and methodology to anyone wishing to improve their skills and better serve all types of learners! We anticipate that our audience will consist of PCL's (DRE's & Youth Ministers), Catechists, Principals, Teachers and Parents of children (of all ages) with intellectual/developmental delays. Click button to the image on right to see a flyer on "*A Place for All*."

A brochure for our upcoming **Diverse Learners Symposium** is also provided for your information. See the "MPD 2011 Symposium Registration Form" through clicking on the image to the left.

***Thanks to Charleen Katra, Associate Director, *Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, Early Childhood and Family Catechesis*, Office of Continuing Christian Education, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston for this information.**

New Curriculum for Persons with Disabilities



from Fr. Bill Gillum, McGuire Memorial

Awakening Spiritual Dimensions II, Sacred Articles for Prayer and Liturgy:

Twenty four lessons to help those with cognitive disabilities become aware of sacred articles used for prayer and liturgy within the Catholic Church.

Some of the sacred articles include: holy water, the church building, altar, crucifix, bible, rosary, bells, chalice and paten, tabernacle, candles, lectionary, music, vestments, vestment colors, oils, etc. Also included are writing exercise sheets and flash cards. Using a sensory-based approach,

the students see, hear, touch, and focus upon each article within an environment of learning and prayer.

Large-print Resource Available to Help Prepare for Roman Missal

from Deirdre Malacrea, RENEW International

I am writing to let you know about a unique resource for



the new translation of the *Missal* entitled, *Lifting Up Our Hearts: Praying with the Third Edition of the Roman Missal*. Recognizing the need for those with visual impairments to prepare for the new text changes coming to the Mass this Advent, RENEW International developed our resource in both a large-print and standard-print edition. The print materials are in size 16 font and above. *Lifting Up Our Hearts* offers a six-week faith-sharing book about the *Third Edition of the Roman Missal* written for the person in the pew. Each book includes a tear-out pew card (also in large print) with the new responses. There is an accompanying music CD. The large-print publication was made possible through the generous support of the La Velle Fund for the Blind, Inc. You can read more about the resources at www.renewintl.org/missal.

Program Meetings

Outreach In Love, a Catholic based religious education program designed for the intellectually and/or physically disabled meets, on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings at St. Edward the Confessor, Richmond. It is open to all faiths and all ages. The opening Mass for Outreach In Love will be held at St. Edward the Confessor, Richmond on October 5, 2011. Bishop Di Lorenzo will be the president.

Respite in Love Program, respite care for individuals with disabilities who reside with their families. For information on both programs call Joan Congable McKay at 804 501-0022

(home), 804 387-1756 cell or email at outreachinlove@yahoo.com Classes will begin again in October, 2011.



Living in Holland Support Group for families with children with disabilities meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament, Norfolk. All families, regardless of their church affiliation, who have children with disabilities, are invited. For more information on this, please contact Karen Jackson at DaCapomusic@cox.net or 757 423-4027.

Living in Holland Support Group, Salem, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help has had several meetings. For information on the meeting times, contact Ellen Tutaj at loumar71@yahoo.com or Bess Hannigan at besshannigan@ymail.com.

Young Life Capernaum, a program for young people with intellectual and physical disabilities meets the first 3 Mondays of the month at Holy Family Church in Virginia Beach. The first meeting of the season will be on Monday September 12th at 6:30pm and then on September 19th. For more information, contact Sue Stefonowich via email at parishadvocate@gmail.com.



Young Life Capernaum, Roanoke meets once a month. For information, contact Our Lady of Nazareth, Roanoke at (540) 774-0066.

Other

Assisi House which will be located on the property of the Church of the Ascension, Virginia Beach is in the planning stages. For information on this go to www.assisihouse.org. Assisi House will be a group home for 8 individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities who need 24/7 supervised care.

To learn more about Assisi House, click here

http://www.richmonddiocese.org/disabilities/documents/Assisi_House.pdf

A **L'Arche** home is in the formation stages for the Richmond/Glen Allen area. If you would like to be on their email list for information, please contact, Marybeth Meacham 804 273-9533/ marybethmeacham@me.com, Cheryl Emory 804 747-4486/ cherylemory@comcast.net. L'Arche communities are caring homes where persons with and without disabilities live with comfort, spirituality, and respect. To learn more about the L'Arche Home, see the Catholic Virginian article <http://www.catholicvirginian.org/archive/2008/2008vol84iss4/pages/article2.htm>

|

National Catholic Partnership with Disabilities (NCPD) News

Janice Benton, Executive Director of NCPD to Receive 2012 Harry A. Fagan Roundtable Award

WASHINGTON D.C. – The Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocesan Social Action Directors recently announced Janice Benton as the 2012 Harry A. Fagan Roundtable Award

recipient. Mrs. Benton will receive the award for her exemplary contributions to the achievement of the Catholic social justice vision through her leadership as Executive Director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, an organization that represents more than 14 million Catholics with disabilities across the United States.

Congratulations, Jan. We in the Diocese of Richmond are so proud of the life-bringing impact your work has made, and will continue to contribute, to ministry in the Church.

[READ MORE](#)

[Donate
to NCPD](#)

Timeless Reflections

[MORE DETAILS](#)

*Don't keep me from Jesus...*that's what one woman who has multiple sclerosis told her pastor recently. She uses a power wheelchair and asked for a ramp so that she could pray in the chapel...She got encouragement from NCPD.org about how other Catholics with disabilities live their faith, and live it abundantly.

*Don't give up on me...*that's what one young man with autism might say, if he could only speak. And his parish didn't give up. Though they had tried for years to prepare him for First Eucharist, the resources just weren't out there. After listening to a talk by a member of the NCPD Autism Task Force, the catechetical team is starting again.

*Don't forget about me...*that's what people living with mental illness tell us. Their mostly silent suffering, attached to the stigma of their condition, makes it hard for others to help. NCPD's Council on Mental Illness has developed a comprehensive toolkit with video, print and online materials, and an E-newsletter. Parishes are responding.

*And, don't miss your chance...*to support this "mighty" ministry, so-called by our Episcopal Moderator, Cardinal Daniel 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.*

[CLICK HERE](#)

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**



Friends of NCPD contribute \$1000 annually to provide additional seed money for the projects listed above.

Become a Friend in 2011!

Click here to be a Friend of NCPD: <http://www.ncpd.org/friends>.