

## June/July Disability E News

### Dear Parish Advocates and Ministry Partners,

#### June is

Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Month  
National HIV Testing Day

#### **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 . . .

### From the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD)

#### NCPD News & Notes

#### See Below for Our Three Upcoming Webinars: Registration Opens August 1, 2011

Registration opens on August 1<sup>st</sup> for the three upcoming 2011 NCPD webinars. Check our [website](#) for links.

#### *Symbolic Catechesis and Other Tools in Catechetical Ministry*

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

#### **Presenters:**

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

Mary Mirrione, National Director, National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

**Moderator:** Lee Nagel, Executive Director, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership





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

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

**Presenters:**

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

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

Sr. Janice McGrane, S.S.J., author, national presenter, disability advocate

**Moderator:** Jerry Freewalt, Director, Office of Social Concerns, Diocese of Columbus

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

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

**Presenter:**

Fr. Rick Curry, S.J., Chaplain-in-Residence, Founder, Academy for Veterans, Georgetown University

**Moderator:**

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

FLYER



Dates and times are being confirmed with the presenters' schedules for our January, 2012, webinar entitled: ***Preparation of Children with Disabilities for Reconciliation and Eucharist***. More will be available in the June E-News on this one.

**CNS STORY: Prayer service for the senses reaches out to those with disabilities.**

Fr. Bill Gillum, presenter for our Tuesday, September 13, 2011 webinar *Symbolic Catechesis and Other Tools in Catechetical Ministry*, is featured with his work in this interesting article.

<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1101263.htm>

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## Legislation/Advocacy Issues -Federal - NCPD Urgently Requests Your Help

Your help is urgently needed to prevent radical Medicaid cuts from being made in the Federal Budget. **NCPD will have the opportunity to address our concerns with Congressional leaders in mid-July** to help communicate to Congress the need for Medicaid services by people with disabilities. **We need to go to Congress with examples of real people whose lives will be severely affected** by the loss of housing, medical and social services they and their families depend upon, if the radical cuts currently included in the budget process become reality.

If you know of someone who receives Medicaid benefits we ask **you to request that they write a letter to their Congressional leaders (links provided below) identifying the real benefits they receive from Medicaid and the hardship that would occur if they lose them.** Send a copy of that letter to NCPD by the end July 5 so that we can take it with us to the Hill when we meet with Congress in mid July. As one mother we know has already said, “With the work and social program cuts my son has already experienced due to budgeting issues, if they continue with the radical cuts to Medicaid which covers his medical and remaining programs, the only thing left for him to do is die.”

The Bishops wrote in a budget resolution letter to the Senate on May 5 that “Access to affordable, life-affirming health care remains an urgent national priority. We recognize that the rising costs of Medicare, Medicaid and other entitlement programs need to be addressed, but we urge that the needs of the poor, working families and vulnerable people be protected. Cost cutting proposals should not simply shift health care costs from the federal government to the states or directly to beneficiaries.”



Bishop Stephen E. Blaire, of Stockton, California, chair of the Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice



Click Links button for contact information on your Congressional leaders.

| For good summaries on Medicaid see |                           | For good summaries on the Medicaid cuts at hand see |                            |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Families USA                       | Kaiser Family websites    | USCCB letter  | NAMI webpage.              |
| <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>         | <a href="#">READ MORE</a> | <a href="#">PRESS RELEASE</a>                       | <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> |

## Recent Events

On June 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, the Be Not Afraid (BNA)- Richmond held two trainings at St. Gregory, Va. Beach and at the Pastoral Center in Richmond. Be Not Afraid Ministry – Richmond is one of many ministries throughout the country that has formed to support the more than 100,000 couples who each year receive the devastating news of a so-called poor prenatal diagnosis (PPD). It may be the detection of a heart defect, spina bifida or a genetic syndrome condition such as Down syndrome, but whatever the specifics, shocked and brokenhearted parents have lost the baby and the pregnancy they had anticipated. With little or no information or resources available that support the option of carrying to term, 80% of these pregnancies end in abortion. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Christin West at 757 749-0990 or [christin\\_west@yahoo.com](mailto:christin_west@yahoo.com). For information on an upcoming BNA conference, see below under Upcoming Events.



**BNA Ministry Training: June 27, Pastoral Center, Molly Korte, Nita Grignol, Christin West, Geline Williams, Kathleen Fogerty, Elaine Schmidt, Noelle Loving, Maggie Disney, Anne Groben, and Tracy Winsor, Presenter.**

## Upcoming Events

**July 20 & 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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:benotafraidnc@live.com)

A rectangular button with a blue background and a white border. The word "FLYER" is written in white, uppercase letters in the center.

## **Disability Parish Advocates**

Thank you **Christa Blomstrom** for the new ministry, Breathe, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel BREATHE Respite provides a fun, safe, evening out for kids with special needs! Parents register their children in advance then, drop them off for a night of fun provided by the BREATHE volunteers! This gives parents a chance to BREATHE by having a night out! BREATHE will happen once a month on Friday evenings! Open to all families living in the Newport News area with children ages 4yrs and up. Contact Christa Blomstrom, [cblomstrom@olmc.org](mailto:cblomstrom@olmc.org) for more information.

Also, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Father Kenneth Wood, pastor, recently celebrated a special Mass with the SPRED community of faith and their families. The SPRED

(Special Religious Education Development) ministry at OLMC welcomes persons with intellectual disabilities into a small faith community. Each friend is paired with a sponsor or partner in faith to journey with through SPRED. The team meets bi-weekly to plan for the Total Community Session the following week when the friends are welcomed into the community. Each session includes personal reflections, sharing the word of God, quiet meditation and the partaking of a meal or Agape together.



**Thank you Christa and Dave for this beautiful ministry!!!**

**Parish Advocate Karen Jackson**, Blessed Sacrament, Founder & Director, **Faith Inclusion Network (FIN)**, presented at the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' (AAIDD) 135th annual meeting, *Inclusive Communities: Pathways to Realizing the Vision*, held in St. Paul, MN in June. If you are interested in learning more about AAIDD, here is a link to their site <http://www.aaid.org>.  
**Thank you Karen for all you do!!!**

## Resources

### **June's Inclusion Tip: Service Animals**

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

TIP SHEET

Welcoming service animals is just another way parishes make the Sacraments, and therefore Christ, accessible to all.

### **Getting Creative for Catechesis of Children with Autism**

Gretchen R. Crowe, Catholic Herald Senior Staff Writer (used with permission)

READ MORE

**No 'one size fits all' curriculum for catechesis of children with autism means parents and catechists must find creative solutions.** This article reflects some of the diverse approaches

used. Gretchen's article is provided in full at the "Read More" button.

BLOG

**Gretchen also put together a blog** as a sort of "catch-all" for things she simply didn't have space to put in the "dead tree edition." Hopefully you'll find this interesting/helpful as well.

### **Roman Missal, Third Edition Adaptations for Catholics with Disabilities**

- USCCB  
<http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/>
- National Catholic Partnership on Disability  
[www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org)
- Xavier Society for the Blind  
<http://www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org/index.php>
- Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commission  
[http://www.fdlc.org/roman\\_missal.htm](http://www.fdlc.org/roman_missal.htm)
- New Roman Missal Sign Language Interpreter Training from the Archdiocese of Washington

[http://www.adw.org/service/NewRomanMissal\\_InterpreterTraining.asp](http://www.adw.org/service/NewRomanMissal_InterpreterTraining.asp)

## Liturgy Training Publications

<http://www.revisedromanmissal.org/>

### New Roman Missal Interpreter Training is available online

Mary O'Meara, Archdiocese of Washington wanted to share the news with you that **New Roman Missal Interpreter Training is available online at:**

[http://www.adw.org/service/NewRomanMissal\\_InterpreterTraining.asp](http://www.adw.org/service/NewRomanMissal_InterpreterTraining.asp)



Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, our Church will begin using the new Roman Missal, Third Edition for our liturgies. Many of the words are changed and may be challenging to persons interpreting the liturgy for a Deaf catholic. This past March, an online video training series was created by a national team of experienced Deaf persons, clergy, pastoral workers, and liturgical interpreters for reference and practice

while preparing to interpret the new translation of the Roman Missal into American Sign Language for the Catholic Deaf Community.

It is important to note that this is a working draft model and focuses on the Common parts of the Mass. 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).

## NCPD News

### NCPD Council on Mental Illness Celebrates it's 5th Anniversary

The NCPD Board recommits to its support of the mission of the Council.

### Benefits of Being an Inclusive Parish

- Adding numbers to the lists of potential volunteers for parish activities.

READ MORE



- Adding potential candidates to the list for liturgical ministries.
- Adding potential volunteers to provide one-to-one support for new parishioners with disabilities who come to the parish in the future.
- Adding candidates for parish council, board of education, and other official bodies of the parish.

- Adding to those from the parish who could be qualified individuals to ordination, to consecrated life, and to full-time, professional service in the Church.
- Build a parish community more reflective of the Body of Christ.
- Keep families active and engaged in the parish, rather than leaving due to lack of access and welcome.
- Help ensure that Catholics with disabilities are nourished in their faith, and able to receive the Sacraments.
- This list could go on and on, for sure!

**Program Meetings** Most of the program meetings do not meet in the Summer. For specifics contact the programs.

**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. There is also a new **Respite in Love Program**. For information on both programs call Joan Congable Mckay at 804 501-0022 (home), 804 387-1756 cell or email at [outreachinlove@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:loumar71@yahoo.com) or Bess Hannigan at [besshannigan@ymail.com](mailto: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.** For more information, contact Sue Stefonowich via email at [parishadvocate@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](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/[cherylememory@comcast.net](mailto:cherylememory@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.html>

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, 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.*

**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>.

**"We are a single flock under the care of a single shepherd. There can be no separate Church for persons with disabilities." (Welcome & Justice, par.1)**

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