

March 2011 Advocate E News

Dear Parish Advocates and Ministry Partners,

March is

Hemophilia Month

National Developmental Disabilities Month*

National Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Month

National MS Education & Awareness Month

Prayers of the Faithful . . .

That all people with disabilities, their families and care-providers, know God's tender love and the support of a welcoming community, we pray . . .

That we recognize the gifts and contributions of all people, especially individuals with cognitive disabilities, we pray . . .

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

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

What We Can Do in Parishes and Dioceses to Raise Awareness About Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

1. Include positive articles about people with intellectual and developmental (IDD) and other disabilities in bulletins, newsletters and newspapers on a regular basis, but especially feature them this month.
2. Make sure parishes and the diocese tap the gifts of people with IDD and other disabilities for ministries and services, but especially feature them this month in these visible roles. (Remember, it is all about awareness this month.)
3. Begin a new initiative this month in your parish or diocese that addresses people with IDD and other disabilities. March will pass, but the presence and gift of people with IDD and other disabilities continues on.

News

National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry (NAFIM) launches new web site



Take some time to delve into this rich source of supports that you will find helpful in your ministry. Featured is the current Online Journal and an article, *The Demands of Human Dignity* by Rev. Earl K. Fernandes, S.T.D., Dean, Mount Saint Mary's Seminary of the West. It is a comprehensive article about strategies for considering the subject of human sexuality and persons with disabilities within a Catholic seminary curriculum.

Also featured are Tip Sheets and other Resources. [Tipsheets](#) found at this link, will bring you to many free downloadable resources. New material added to the website under 'Federal Benefits' are reports on 2010 health care legislation and the pending ABLE Act. Also new under the headings of 'Catechesis', 'Individualizing Lesson Plans' and 'Sacraments' are materials by Mary Pat Carter with Marilyn E. Bishop that have been reproduced with the permission of the University of Dayton and are available for your download and use.

The '[Resources](#)' link leads to a list of [dioceses](#) with a special interest in people with developmental disabilities, the [support network of NAFIM members](#) who are willing to share their experiences, and a list of [helpful websites](#). **Congratulations and thanks to NAFIM for this very helpful ministry tool!**

Legislation/Advocacy Issues

Bishops Support Three Bills to Strengthen Protections for Life and Conscience



Last month we reported on three bills that are in congress that impact pro-life and conscience protection issues. Updates regarding these bills are below as reported from www.govtrack.us. Click on the bill number for more information.

[H.R. 358](#): The Protect Life Act: The House Committee on Energy and Commerce recommended it be considered by the House as a whole on February 11, 2011.

[H.R. 361](#): The Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (ANDA) was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on February 1, 2011.

[H.R. 3](#): No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act: On Mar 3, 2011 the House Judiciary recommended it be considered by the House as a whole.

Government Legislative News and Notes

FEMA Continues Efforts to Include

From an article by Jennifer Simpson in the March, American Association of People with Disabilities Newsletter.

On Friday February 4, 2011, AAPD's Jenifer Simpson attended a briefing and update by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) on the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).



IPAWS is the next generation of the Emergency Alert System that most of us know via radio and TV announcements when they say "this is a test of the emergency alert system." IPAWS, however, will integrate these TV and radio announcements with messages on cell phones, through Internet services, via weather alert and local systems such as AMBER, electronic road signage and "reverse 911" systems. The aim is to be able to send "one message over more devices to more people for maximum safety" using different technologies. To read more and/or comment, click below.

[MORE DETAILS](#)

Upcoming Events

Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) Department of Special Needs Ministries' *Third Annual Conference on FAITH, DEAFNESS AND DISABILITIES: Creating Communities Where all Can Lead. Saturday, March 19.* This workshop will include an array of parish, community, and clergy/religious workshops, including some 20 workshops concerning the spiritual and social service needs of persons who are Deaf or disabled. Simultaneous Spanish and ASL translation will be provided. For more information, a flyer is available below.

[FLYER](#)

Saturday, March 19, Special Needs Catechesis Workshops, Part of the Third Annual Conference on Faith, Deafness and Disabilities (see above).

10 a.m. Symbolic Catechesis for persons with communication differences - 2:45 p.m. Catechists' Roundtable. Presented by Fr. William Gillum, OFM Cap., Author of *Awakening Spiritual Dimensions: Prayer Services with Persons with Severe Disabilities* Chaplain, McGuire Memorial, Pittsburgh. For more information, contact Peg Kolm at 301-853-4560 or at mkolm@adw.org

Listening and Spoken Language: Updating Educational Interventions for Working with Students Who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. April 1 & 2, 2011, Wingate, Short Pump, Virginia. This is part of a series of professional development sessions for Virginia teachers and speech-language pathologists who serve children who are deaf or hard of hearing and communicate through listening and spoken language. For more information, [see flyer](#).

Accessibility Summit, April 1-2, 2011/ Washington D.C. Featured Speaker: Dr. Temple Grandin will deliver the keynote address, Dr. Grandin is one of the world's most well-known individuals with Autism, and has authored numerous books, including her most recent bestseller entitled *The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's*. In 2010, *Time* magazine named Dr. Grandin one of its "100 Most Influential People." For the flyer with registration and information, [click here](#).

Faith Inclusion Network (FIN) , "That All May Worship-2011," April 10, 2011. Double Tree Hotel and Conference Center, Virginia Beach. Speakers will include Rev. William Gaventa and Kathleen Biolduc. For flyer with detail, [click here](#). To understand more about FIN, you may want to read FIN's founder, Karen Jackson's, story about Ash Wednesday and her daughter and inspiration, Samantha, titled **This is Community**. [Click here to read](#).

Opening Doors: Unlocking Potential 2011! Language, Literacy and Learning. The 5th annual state conference for educational professionals who work with students who are deaf/hard of hearing, scheduled for **Tuesday-Wednesday, June 28-29, 2011** in Charlottesville, VA . If you have any questions about this event, please email Ann Hughes directly at awhughes@vcu.edu

NCPD WEBINAR SERIES-2011

Internet Seminars to Support your Ministry

Sacramental Webinar Series – NCPD

In response to questions that commonly received; National Catholic Partnership (NCPD) will produce its first webinar in a series that examines preparation for each of the Sacraments for children and adults with disabilities. The topic of RCIA will be included. The first will be Eucharist and Reconciliation. Date TBA.

The following **Webinars are in the process of being scheduled. Dates TBA. Webinars**

1st Quarter: Reconciliation and Eucharist for Children with Disabilities;

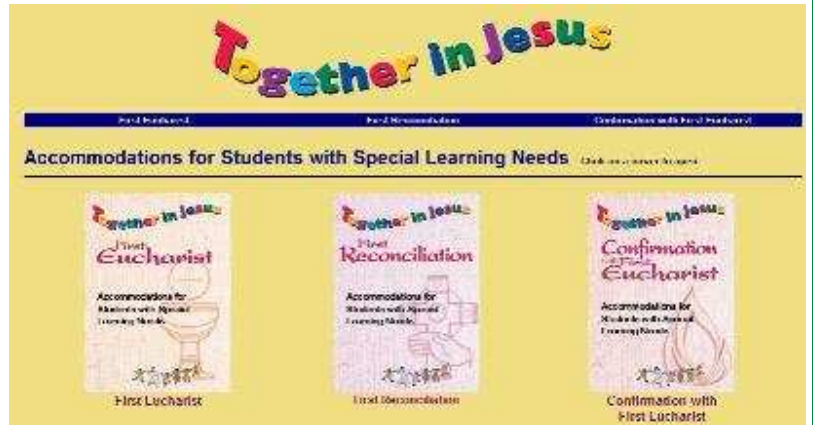
3rd Quarter: Supporting Veterans and their Families in Parishes;

4th Quarter: An as yet to be determined topic on supporting people with mental illnesses and their families in the life of the parish. It promises to be an exciting year.

Resources

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. This is something new to their website and is listed under Guides and Manuals section on the main webpage at www.pflaum.com. Click on the link below to reach it directly:



[CLICK HERE](#)

Marsha Rivas, Diocese of Toledo offers March's Inclusion Tip on Pastoral Visits with Someone with Dementia.

Dementia is an umbrella term that covers many different diagnoses with the common thread of memory loss. Memory loss leads to confusion, anxiety and potential isolation. A parishioner may show signs of dementia by coming to church on the wrong day or time, or behaving oddly at Mass. If they feel uncomfortable with people's reaction and their own confusion, they may stop coming to Mass and parish activities. Now is the time to accelerate parish outreach to avoid losing the connection with these faithful parishioners who now have a greater need for full participation in the Sacraments and membership in the parish community...click below for more information.

[CLICK HERE](#)

NCPD Mental Illness Resources

The NCPD *Welcomed and Valued* DVD and Resource Binder are available for purchase by clicking here. Scroll down to the bottom of the page. The DVD features in depth looks at people with mental illness and how they participate in parish life. (27 minute open captioned DVD. Discussion guide included.)

In addition, NCPD now has a wonderful DVD, *Voices of Faith* that shows individuals with various disabilities talking about what their faith means to them. This DVD is part of the Diocese of Richmond's

Disability Resource Lending Library. If you would like to borrow, please contact Nita at ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org. It is also available to purchase at www.ncpd.org

If you are interested in Mental Illness resources and receiving NCPD's Mental Illness E – News, please contact ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org.

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. . 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



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. For more information, contact Sue Stefonowich via email at parishadvocate@gmail.com.



Young Life Capernaum, Roanoke meets once a month and will be meeting on **February 23, March 23, April 13 and May 25, 2011.**

Parish Advocates

Thank you Parish Advocates, Sheila Talley and Mary Beth Maino for hosting a **St. Patrick's Day Party** for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (IDD) at the **Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville.** Many individuals with IDD and their families from the surrounding parishes attended, and all who attended enjoyed the music, games, and ice cream sundaes.

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](tel: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.html>

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