

May Disability E News

Dear Parish Advocates and Ministry Partners,

May is

National Mental Health Awareness Month
Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month
Hepatitis Awareness Month
Huntington's Disease Awareness Month
National Arthritis Month
National Stroke Awareness Month
National Trauma Awareness Month
National Suicide Awareness Week

Prayers of the Faithful . . .

For increased sensitivity and creativity to break down the attitudinal and architectural barriers preventing the full inclusion of people with disabilities, we pray. . .

For members of our communities and families touched by the loss of a loved one through suicide, we pray . . .

From the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD)

May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

The month of May is an opportunity to raise awareness and erase stigma surrounding mental illness. What can parishes do?

- Run the series of bulletin articles available from NCPD at www.ncpd.org/ministries-programs/specific/mentalillness.
- Prayers of the Faithful for people with mental illness also on the NCPD website.
- Sunday Homilies: One Sunday have a homily at all the masses relating the Gospel to issues of support/stigma/justice/compassion for people with mental illness and after the masses have local mental health providers and support groups available for discussion. See a sample



homily at www.miministry.org, on the announcements page.

- Show [Welcomed and Valued](#) DVD to parish organizations. An accompanying [discussion guide](#) is available from NCPD.
- Invite speakers to come and talk on mental health, justice and support issues, etc, to parish organizations.
- Start a support “faith” group for people with mental illness. The leader should have some training, but just as we don’t have to be an oncologist to help people with cancer to pray, we don’t have to be a psychiatrist to help people with mental illness to pray. We do have to know what are our boundaries and limits. This is a good opportunity to bring people with mental illness and family members into ministry.
- Host a Diocesan Mass celebrating the lives of people with mental illness and their families and mental health professionals.
- Uphold the dignity of the individual by using “people first” language, e.g., “people with mental illness” rather than “the mentally ill. We all want to be known by the person we are and not the disease we have. Avoid stigmatizing language that feeds stereotypes. See page 21 of the *Welcomed and Valued* [Resource Binder](#).

For other ideas check www.NAMI.org and www.mentalhealthamerica.net.

NCPD News & Notes

See Below for Our Three Upcoming Webinars: Registration Opens May 18th

Registration opens on May 18 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>

Legislation/Advocacy Issues

Federal

Government/Legislative News and Notes



USCCB WELCOMES HOUSE PASSAGE OF 'NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT'

The Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) welcomed passage of the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act" (H.R. 3) by the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill codifies a permanent, government-wide policy against taxpayer subsidies for abortion and abortion coverage, improves federal conscience protection for health care providers and entities, and closes various loopholes that give tax-preferred status to abortion...

PRESS RELEASE

Virginia

The 2011 Virginia General Assembly Session ended on February 27th – The FY12 Budget Bill
Includes:

275 new ID (Intellectually Disabled) Waivers for waiting list (reduces by 5%)

150 new DD (Developmentally Disabled) Waivers for waiting list (reduces by 15%)

Thank you Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) for the action alerts supporting the above. For information on how to be involved with the VCC, go to <http://vacatholic.org/>

The following legislation was enacted with the Governor's Recommendation.

Health insurance; mandated coverage for autism spectrum disorder. Requires health insurers, health care subscription plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and treatment for ASD in individuals from age two to six, subject to an annual maximum benefit of \$35,000 of coverage for applied behavior analysis. Treatment for ASD includes applied behavior analysis when provided or supervised by a board certified behavior analyst, who shall be licensed by the Board of Medicine, and the prescribing practitioner is independent of the provider of the applied behavior analysis. The mandate to provide coverage will not apply to individual or small group policies, contracts, or plans. The mandate will apply to the state employees' health insurance plan and to the local choice health program. This measure will not apply to an insurer, corporation, or health maintenance organization, or

to government employee programs, if the costs associated with coverage exceed one percent of premiums charged over the experience period.

Parish Advocate Mary Beth Maino's , (Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville) son Robbie, who has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), spoke in favor of the legislation before the Virginia Senate Finance Committee. To view this, go to Youtube video of Robbie speaking to the Senate Committee about his personal experience with growing up with Autism. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZYktrRIz0U>

Thank you Robbie and Mary Beth too!

For more information on autism and resources from the Catholic Church, go to <http://www.catholicvirginian.org/archive/2011/2011vol86iss12/pages/article8.html> and <http://www.richmonddiocese.org/disabilities/index.htm>

Governor McDonnell proclaims May as Early Intervention Awareness Month. For specifics, go to <http://1.usa.gov/mwKJIS>

Upcoming Events

I Need a Light House – Mini Conference on Mental Health for Teens, Universe Between Our Ears on Wednesday, May 25, 4:45 pm to 7:30 pm at the **First Colonial High School (Auditorium), 1272 Mill Dam Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23454**. For the flyer, [Click Here](#).

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

Disability Parish Advocates

Parish Advocate Karen Jackson, Blessed Sacrament, Founder & Director, **Faith Inclusion Network (FIN)**, together with her board members held an afternoon conference to promote awareness, provide support and celebrate the gifts of people with disABILITIES in our Faith communities, ***That All May Worship*** on April 10th in Virginia Beach. The conference presenters were nationally known for their leadership in including people with disabilities into faith communities. Further, the conference

attendees represented most of the major faith traditions and denominations and represented 8 states.

Thank you Karen for all you do!!!

For the article in the Catholic Virginian go to

<http://www.catholicvirginian.org/archive/2011/2011vol86iss14/pages/article3.html>

Parish Advocate, Sheila Talley, Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville hosted a Caring for Caregivers presentation with guest speaker, Brenda Burgner on April 13, 2011. Caregivers from other parishes attended and appreciated the recognition.

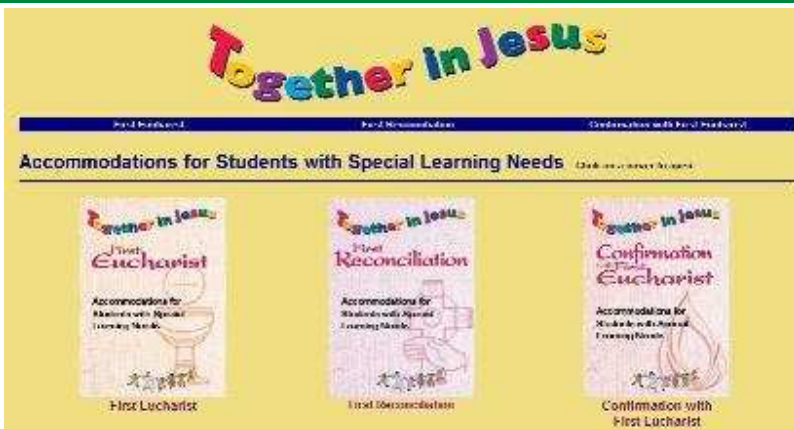
Thank you Sheila.

Resources

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](#)

May's Inclusion Tip: Marsha Rivas, Diocese of Toledo's Director, Equal Access Ministries offer on "Psychiatric Advanced Directives". This is especially timely, with May being Mental Health Awareness Month. Click below for the printable sheet.

[READ MORE](#)



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



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).

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 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. 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.**

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.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)

Nita Grignol
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Richmond, Virginia 23294-4201

804 622-5260
www.richmonddiocese.org/disability