



October/November Disability E News

Dear Parish Advocates and Ministry Partners, November is

November is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month
National Diabetes Month
National Epilepsy Month

Prayers of the Faithful . . .

For families and care providers who support individuals with Alzheimer's disease. May they feel the compassionate presence of Jesus in all they do, we pray. . .

Recent Events

The White Masses were held in the three Vicariates at Our Lady of Lourdes (OLL), Richmond, Church of the Resurrection, Portsmouth, Star of the Sea, Virginia Beach and Our Lady of Nazareth (OLN), Roanoke.

The White Masses, honored the giftedness of persons with disabilities and had the designation of white because of that color's connection to Baptism. *"By reason of their baptism, all Catholics are equal in dignity in the sight of God and have the same divine calling."*

Yesterday I heard from people from all 4 parishes on the beautiful homilies of Bishop Di Lorenzo, Msgr. Barrett, Msgr. Lehman and Fr. Steve DeLeon. Also mentioned was the welcoming attitude of the concelebrating priests, Fr. Spencer, Fr. Gaudy, Fr. Cupps, and Fr. Nowacki. Fr. Spencer, OLL, sent me a copy of an email he received. The email was from a woman from South Carolina who was visiting and just happened to attend Our Lady of Lourdes' White Mass. She is the sister of 2 disabled siblings [one with Down syndrome and one with Cerebral Palsy]. She mentioned the people with disabilities who participated in the Mass and said, . . . *"I have to say that, in 30 years of attending church services, this was the best, most meaningful mass I have ever had the pleasure of attending. I cannot wait to tell my friends, family and home parish about what I experienced today. I know God is always present when a handful of people gather in His name and, for the first time ever, I felt his grace throughout. Thank you for a beautiful morning."*

The participants in the 4 White Masses were individuals with numerous disabilities, some visible such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, various physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities, autism, sensory disabilities such as deafness and blindness and some not so visible such as mental illness, aspergers, and learning disabilities.

In reflecting on the Masses, I thought, what better month to celebrate the giftedness of persons with disabilities – **October** - which is Respect Life Month. Thank you to all who made this possible. Nita See below for **Cardinal DiNardo Issues Respect Life Statement**.

Follow-Up to the White Masses

In the weeks following the White Masses, there will be Life Affirming Ministry/Initiatives workshops, **Building a Culture of Life Workshops** 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 All are invited!

Church of the Resurrection, Portsmouth, Wed., Nov 2, 6:15 PM

Star of the Sea, Virginia Beach, Tue., Nov. 8, 6:30 PM

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

Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond, Mon., Nov. 14th, 7 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 the Building a Culture of Life flyer](#)

In this issue

Recent Events White Mass & Follow up Building a Culture of Life Workshops

National Catholic Partnership with Disabilities' (NCPD)

October Respect Life Month, Cardinal DiNardo Issues Respect Life Statement.

USCCB's Respect Life pamphlets on eight topics

Autism Task Force Update

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Living With an Endangered Species

Flashes of Color: In the Age of Perfection Documentary Trailer

Upcoming Events in the Diocese of Richmond

What our Disability Parish Advocates are doing

Other Diocesan Directors/Organizations

October's Inclusion Tip: *Hope*: The Key to Suicide Prevention

Government/Legislative Action Alerts

Virginia Catholic Conference

Resources:

Resources for Persons with Disabilities for Roman Missal, Third Edition
Veterans Outreach Project, Xavier Society for the Blind
NCPD Resources

Program Meetings

OCTOBER - RESPECT LIFE MONTH





CARDINAL DINARDO ISSUES RESPECT LIFE MONTH STATEMENT

Cardinal DiNardo calls on Catholics to respect, promote and teach the 'transcendent nature of the human person.' Catholics must not shrink from obligation to defend right to life, conscience rights. This year's Respect Life Program marks its 40th anniversary. The theme for 2011-12 is "I came so all might have life and have it to the full" (cf. John 10:10). To read the full statement, please click on this link .

<http://www.usccb.org/news/2011/11-180.cfm>

The 2011-2012 Respect Life Program features eight pamphlets in a series called Life Matters. Each presents convincing support for the teachings of the Catholic Church on major pro-life issues, with facts and reasoning drawn from science, history, law, sociology, and other secular sources. All 8 pamphlets are available in English and Spanish. Each pamphlet is accessible as a pdf for a bulletin insert or to use as a personal resource and background on the eight topics. The value of these pamphlets/Bulletin Inserts goes beyond their use on *Respect Life* Sunday or even *Respect Life* month. The eight topics are displayed below. To obtain and view more information about the pamphlets including bulletin inserts and orders, click the button below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

<p>LIFE MATTERS: ABORTION</p>  <p>RESPECT LIFE</p>	<p>LIFE MATTERS: CONTRACEPTION</p>  <p>RESPECT LIFE</p>	<p>LIFE MATTERS: THE DEATH PENALTY</p>  <p>RESPECT LIFE</p>	<p>LIFE MATTERS: PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</p>  <p>RESPECT LIFE</p>
<p><i>Abortion</i></p>	<p>Contraception</p>	<p><i>The Death Penalty</i></p>	<p><i>Persons with Disabilities</i></p>
<p>LIFE MATTERS: EMBRYO RESEARCH</p>  <p>RESPECT LIFE</p>	<p>LIFE MATTERS: TO THE END OF OUR DAYS</p>  <p>RESPECT LIFE</p>	<p>LIFE MATTERS: LOVE AND MARRIAGE</p>  <p>RESPECT LIFE</p>	<p>LIFE MATTERS: REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES</p>  <p>RESPECT LIFE</p>
<p><i>Embryo Research</i></p>	<p><i>To the End of Our Days</i></p>	<p>Love and Marriage</p>	<p><i>Reproductive Technologies</i></p>

National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD)

Autism Task Force Update

The Task Force has been very busy these past 11 months with monthly meetings and finishing its work on the assessment of resources, curriculum, and programs, and in the drafting of the 50+ page report with recommendations for actions being written for the NCPD Board. This report will be considered at the Board's November meeting. You and your needs as parish and diocesan people serving those on the autism spectrum are constantly on our minds as we complete this work. All Task Force members are eager to see its recommendations come to life for the benefit of people with autism spectrum disorders and their families.



October is Down syndrome Awareness Month

Enjoy the faith story of Maddie, a college-age young woman with Down syndrome, as told by her.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Op2PygEu5Fk&feature=player_embedded

Living With an Endangered Species

The October 6, 2011 edition of *Zenit*, *The World Seen From Rome* electronic news included an article that focuses on October being both the Month of Mary and Down Syndrome Awareness Month. It starts, "As it happens, I have one of the world's most precious treasures sitting in my own home: an endangered

species...My endangered species, however, is a child with Down syndrome. He is indeed the most endangered of all, as he is not even recognized as such. There are 600,000 elephants in Africa, assiduously protected from those who would kill them for a bit of ivory, but only 400,000 Down syndrome people in the United States. Yet while it seems that every newborn panda is front-page news, 92% of unborn children diagnosed with Down syndrome are killed by abortion. To read more, go to <http://www.zenit.org/article-33610?l=english>

Flashes of Color in the Age of Perfection - 11 minute trailer for a 90 minute documentary that shows the threats to the lives of people with disabilities. Go to this website to view.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDF4fme44x8&feature=player_embedded#!

Upcoming Events in the Diocese of Richmond

November 3rd 7:00 pm Evening Faith Inclusion Network (FIN) meeting at St. Mary's Home, Norfolk. This is a FREE event, open to all. Coffee, tea and dessert will be available during networking
[Click here for flyer.](#)

NAMI Central Virginia's family support group. Parents, spouses, siblings and other family members are always asking/looking for support groups to help them manage living with a relative with serious mental illness. The group meets on the 2nd & 4th Mondays from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the First English Lutheran Church, 16023 Monument Ave (Stuart Circle). Contact To-Shera 804 715-5028, friend.toshera@gmail.com or Myia – 804 715-5098, mjohnson865@yahoo.com

Parent Child Advocate Program begins its first session on **Saturday, November 12, 10-noon.** This free series of sign language lessons and topics specific to children who are deaf/hard of hearing was funded by the VA Department of Education. The flyer also provides the link to the video series developed for

families.

[Click here for the 2011-12 Schedule of Sessions](#)

Disability Parish Advocates

Thanks go to all the Parish Advocates who worked to find participants for the four White Masses in our Diocese, to all the Parish Advocates who attended the White Masses and to all the Parish Advocates who have a disability and graciously agreed to participate. A special thanks goes to Elaine Schmidt, Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond who was one of the two coordinators for OLL and to Gerry Wallace, Star of the Sea, Va Beach and a new Parish Advocate who was also one of the two coordinators for Star of the Sea.

Other Dioceses

Mary Anne Russo, Associate Director: Ministry with Persons with Special Needs, Office of Faith Formation, Diocese of Rockville Centre

The DVD One Flock, One Shepherd has been posted at

www.drvc-faith.org/specialneeds.html .

You are welcome to visit the website to see it.

Sr. Kathleen Schipani, Administrator, PCPD/Deaf Apostolate, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

I was happy to be a member of the team preparing this resource. It is meant to assist the Deaf Catholic Community and will be very helpful to interpreters. The voicing and captions are not yet edited but I think you will still find this helpful. You can view the introductions or go directly to the Mass Parts which begin on video #3.



This is still a work in progress.

VIDEO OF THE NEW TRANSLATION - Boston Study Group

Here is the link: <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLD9E59041BADF3F93>

For Sr.'s full announcement, click here.



Inclusion Tip

October's Inclusion Tip: *Hope: The Key to Suicide Prevention*

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



Alphonsus Obayuwana, MD, spent 30 years studying human hope leading to his thesis, Unifying Theory of Hope, Peace and Life. Dr. Obayuwana acknowledges that human life is full of struggles and challenges, and very unpredictable. Every person is burdened by uncertainties, worries, and anxieties, which collectively cause stress. As a result, personal peace of mind eludes many people, with some succumbing to depression and even suicide because of unfulfilled needs and aspirations. Only those who have hope can cope well in the face of personal crises. Click “Tip Sheet” button for more information. *For more information contact Marsha Rivas, Equal Access Ministries Diocese of Toledo 419-244-6711 mrivas@toledodiocese.org*

TIP SHEET

USCCB and Legislative Notes

ACTION ALERT: USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development
Urge the Deficit "Super Committee" to Protect the Poor and Vulnerable. [Click here](#)

Virginia Catholic Conference www.vacatholic.org

Voting should be a priority for every faithful citizen.

"Participating in the political process, and thereby helping to create a more just society, is an essential part of what it means to be a follower of Christ in our Commonwealth today."

-- Bishops DiLorenzo and Loverde

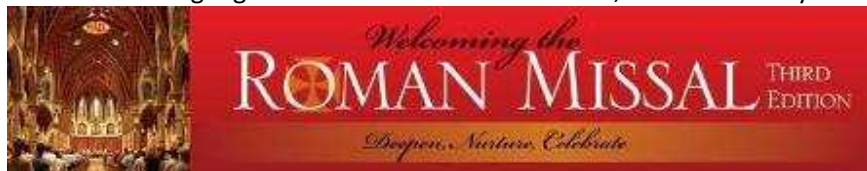
General Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011. All 140 General Assembly seats up for election.
Official August 2011 [Primary Results](#)

Resources

Resources for Persons with Disabilities for Roman Missal, Third Edition

This NCPD web page with resources for the Roman Missal to support Disability Ministry has been assembled for your convenience. It contains a variety of resources that you will need as the Church prepares to implement the Revised Roman Missal with its new language for the Mass on November 27, the first Sunday of Advent.

[MORE DETAILS](#)



Veterans Outreach Project, Xavier Society for the Blind.

Although we provide our services at no charge to all who need them and qualify, we are currently

involved in a special outreach project to make veterans aware of what we have available and the ways in which we can serve the ones who have served our country. We are adding special materials to our library specifically aimed at veterans, and we are coordinating with veterans groups, chaplaincy organizations and government and military offices to find ways we can better serve the men and women who served our country and who now have lost their sight or who have limited vision. For more information, contact Rick Kenney, Coordinator, at: rick@xaviersocietyfortheblind.org or call him at (212) 473-7800.

Resources

Roman Missal, Third Edition Adaptations for Catholics with Disabilities

See our 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).

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.

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.html>