

June Disability Parish Advocate E News

Dear Parish Advocates,

June is

Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week

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. . .

Upcoming Events

“Save the Date” Saturday, October 9, 2010 – *Affirming Life: Making A Difference!* This conference will focus on the how the Parish Advocates and the Parishes with the help of pastors, parishioners and staff are *Affirming Life* and *Making A Difference!* You will be amazed when you hear and see what is happening throughout the diocese. More information on this will sent within the month . . .

Webinar - June 10th

Advanced Considerations: Mental Illness in Youth and Young Adults, June 10, 2010

Presented by the NCPD Council on Mental Illness as part of its Welcomed and Valued Initiative, and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), helping parishes support the spiritual life of youth and young adults.

Presenters: Dr. Robert McCarty, Executive Director of NFCYM and Dr. Paul Myers, Director of Student Health Services, University of Portland, OR.



Partners for this production: National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD), National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), and National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), in consultation with National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association (NCYAMA).

[Click here](#) for flyer. [Click here](#) to register. To access any of the webinars, you must have high speed internet service. Registration for the webinars is free for parishioners of the Diocese of Richmond since we are affiliate members of the National Catholic Partnership

on Disabilities (NCPD). The webinar will also be shown at the Pastoral Center. To attend, call or email Nita Grignol at 804 622-5260 or ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org. See below for information under NCPD Resources for a schedule of upcoming webinars.

Wednesday, June 30 - Saturday, July 3, 2010

2010 NAMI National Convention

Washington, DC

For schedule and registration information on the annual convention of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, [click here](#).

The NAMI FaithNet Networking Session on Wednesday, June 30th -- 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm may be attended without registering for the entire NAMI Conference.

Wrestling with Our Inner Angels: Faith, Mental Illness and the Journey to Wholeness - Nancy Clare Kehoe, Ph.D. - Friday, July 2 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

Getting Started with NAMI FaithNet Outreach- Friday, July 2, 3:45 pm - 5:15 pm - Craig Rennebohm and Carole Wills.

Sunday, July 25 - Friday, July 30, 2010

Holley Family Village's Catholic Family Week

Brooklyn, Michigan

This program focuses on Catholic families with persons who are deaf who want to deepen their faith as a FAMILY while having a good time at beautiful De Sales Center. To register or see more details go to: <http://holleyfv.org/ASLWeek.aspx>

Saturday, July 31, 2010

National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry (NAfIM)

Annual Membership Meeting & Workshop

9 AM to 5:00 PM

Washington Theological Union

Washington DC

Topic: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Call 800-736-1280 or email info@nafim.org for more information

National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD) News, Events

Father Wayne Ball presented 2010 Servant-Leader Award

Priests Presented NCPD 2010 SERVANT-LEADER AWARDS

At its May 25 NCPD Friends Founders Dinner, NCPD presented its 2010 Servant-Leader Awards to Fr. Wayne Ball and Fr. Rick Curry, SJ. Both men have been featured in recent E-NEWS articles highlighting priests with disabilities during the Year for Priests.

Fr. Wayne, fluent in eight languages and a Canon Lawyer, is a pastor in the Diocese of Richmond and serves in the Tribunal. Fr. Curry founded the National Theatre Workshop of the Handicapped in 1977, and recently founded the Veterans Academy at Georgetown University to support veterans with disabilities and post traumatic stress (PTS). In presenting the awards, Janice Benton, NCPD executive director, noted: “We are pleased tonight to present to you two men who are serving our community in their unique roles as priests. We have known both Fr. Wayne and Fr. Rick for decades, and can attest to the many ways they have shared their creativity and talents with people with disabilities and the total faith community. We trust that other men and women with disabilities who are discerning a vocation to the religious life will emulate the powerful witness of Fr. Wayne and Fr. Rick.” To view more on the event, click [here](#).



**Cardinal McCarrick & Jan Benton
present the Servant-Leader award to
Fr. Ball**

Stand with the Disability Office as we join in solidarity to Affirm Life and continue what was begun during our Diocesan Respect Life Week, January 17th – 23, 2010

Plan NOW to attend the NCPD 2010-2011 Webinars:

June 10, 2010

Mental Illness in Youth and Young Adults

October 5, 2010

Threats to the Life of People with Disabilities,
Part I: Poor Prenatal Diagnosis of Lethal or Nonlethal Conditions & Disability

1st Quarter, 2011

Advanced Considerations on Catechesis and
Children and Youth with Disabilities

2nd Quarter, 2011

Parish Outreach to Wounded Warriors

3rd and 4th Quarters, 2011 In Process

A Message from NCPD

Your attendance at past NCPD webinars has helped support **the faith life of Catholics with disabilities**. **Can you help us** continue to support them through future NCPD webinars by making a contribution now of **\$20** (or any amount)?

Donate
to NCPD

Your contribution helps provide trainings like this Thursday's webinar on youth & young adults with mental illness—June 10 at 1 p.m. EST. [Register here.](#)

NCPD's Webinars:

For review of the past webinars, go to www.NCPD.org and click on webinars, then click on which ones you view. Each webinar has great handouts to download.



Parish Advocates

Our Parish Advocates continue the year long education on Respect Life and Disabilities that was started during Respect Life Week on January 17-18.our Parish Advocates have done the following:

Parish Advocate Sheila Talley, Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville helped to facilitate a CARING FOR CAREGIVERS presentation at her church. Sheila is a writer and is always willing to help when the Disability Office needs someone to gather information and write a story.



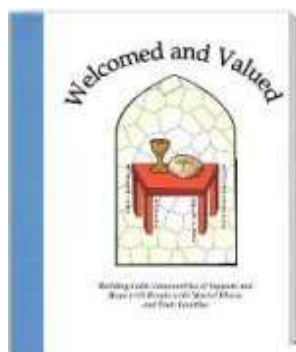
Sheila was responsible for getting stories on two of our Diocesan priests with disabilities, Fr. Wayne Ball and Fr. Mike Joly. Both priests have been featured in NCPD's E-NEWS articles highlighting priests with disabilities during the Year for Priests (click [here](#) to see their stories).

Another author, is Parish Advocate, **Karen Jackson**, Blessed Sacrament, Norfolk. She has shared many of her stories with us. The most recent story is ***Autism and Communion – A Catholic Reflection***. [Click here](#) to read the beautiful story. Karen has a **Living in Holland Support Group** (see **Diocesan Programs** below for information on this.) She also started **Faith Inclusion Network**, an Ecumenical Group that is working to bring the faith to individuals with disabilities.

Opportunities Resources

NCPD has resources available for sale and for free viewing or downloading from its website, including: NCPD Mental Illness Resources

The NCPD *Welcomed and Valued* DVD and Resource Manual are available for purchase by [clicking here](#). 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.) To download the Resource Manual [click here](#).



NCPD has suggested that we look at ways for parishes to raise awareness on Mental Illness. May is Mental Health Month. **Maybe your parish would like to show the NCPD *Welcomed and Valued* video and have a panel discussion of some people who**

live with mental illness or family members. The video is 27 minutes long, and has been very well received.” For information on this, please contact Nita Grignol at 804 622-5260 or email at nggrignol@richmonddiocese.org.

Inclusion Tip

Marsha Rivas, Equal Access Ministry, Diocese of Toledo Disability Ministry, sent us this Tip Sheet on Tourette Syndrome to share with you by [download](#). Tourette Syndrome (TS) is a chronic hereditary neurobiological disorder that is characterized by tics, which are involuntary sudden repetitive movements and/or vocal outbursts. TS occurs in 1 out of every 1000 persons. Symptoms usually begin between the ages of 6 and 10, and it is 3 times more likely to occur in boys than girls. It is a highly misunderstood disorder that causes a ripple effect in social, emotional, and educational development. For a complete listing of Inclusion Tips, [click here](#).



Following the Footsteps of St. Paul

Fr. John Sheehan, SJ of the Xavier Society for the Blind (www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org) is leading a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey called "Following the Footsteps of St. Paul," from October 11 to 22nd and the basic cost is only \$3,999. But if you are a daring sort, they are having a raffle, and the First Prize is 2 tickets on this pilgrimage trip. A ticket includes everything - air fare, meals (2 a day on land, 3 a day on the ship), hotel and outside cabin (double occupancy) and local air-conditioned transport. So you and a companion get to go to the Holy Land for \$65 - if you win the Raffle.

A raffle ticket is only \$65 (2 for \$100) and there are only 299 tickets available. The drawing will be held on July 20, 2010. If you win and don't choose to go, you may donate your tickets for a tax deduction and two blind people will be given the chance to take the trip. Or you may take a \$4,000 cash prize. (And hopefully give some of that money back to the Xavier Society.) For more information or to reserve a ticket, send an email to: fatherjohn@xaviersocietyfortheblind.org.

The 2010 Joshua O'Neill and Zeshan Tabani Enrichment Fund Application Is Now Available

The Joshua O'Neill and Zeshan Tabani Enrichment Fund offers financial assistance to young adults (18+) with Down syndrome who wish to continue to enrich their lives by enrolling in postsecondary programs or taking enrichment classes that will help them to enrich life through employment, independent living skills, life skills or another way. To date, over thirty students have received grants from National Down Syndrome Society to help cover the costs of pursuing their postsecondary education and enrichment goals.

Visit www.ndss.org to download the application, or contact Vanessa Quick at vquick@ndss.org or 800-221-4602 with any questions.

Mass for Your Intentions

Fr. Carlo Notaro, M.M.I., one of NCPD's large print Sacramentary recipients, is offering to say masses for peoples' intentions. You can contact him at the following address. Any stipends would go to his community.

Rev. Carlo Notaro, M.M.I. The Jefferson 9401 Old Sauk Rd. Apt 113 Middleton, WI 53562	Work: 608-836-3670 Cell: 608-446-0434 Email: trinity.3337@tds.net
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Hearing Aid Assistance Available

The Hear Now program of the Starkey Hearing Foundation holds out hope to those who need hearing aids but have no resources to acquire them. If you know someone in need of this service, please share the information with them that is found at [this link](#).

New Online Catholic Bible Search Engine

A new online Bible platform that enables people to find specific Scripture passages using keywords, was launched last week.

The program was officially released to the public on May 13 by Catholic.net. The press release noted that this is the first complete Catholic Bible made available for keyword search. It added that an English and Spanish Bible, both translations approved by the Vatican, are being offered for searching through the program.

The search engine allows users to share Bible passages with their blogs, with Facebook and Twitter, and with other social media Web sites. It also allows people to add a search widget to their own personal Web page.

The project was undertaken with partial funding from the U.S. bishops' conference, and with the help of volunteers from a Catholic.net social aid program in Mexico.

To access the Bible [click here](#).

Worth Reading

Sacraments for Every Child

Several E-News readers brought to our attention this article from www.americamagazine.org, "Sacraments for Every Child."

When Jimmy was baptized as an infant, he had no apparent physical problems. But as a young boy, he began to experience difficulty walking and running. Eventually he was diagnosed with Duchene muscular dystrophy. In order to receive the physical and occupational therapy he needed, as well as other mobility supports, Jimmy's parents moved him from the parish school to a local public school. As a result of this switch and his parents' later divorce, the boy never received the...

To view the rest of the article, [click here](#).

"Did I turn out to be the son you wanted when I was born?"

Lee Nagel, Executive Director of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) shared this piece with us and we pass it on to you on his behalf.

Asperger's Syndrome – A Stop on the Autism Continuum

In case you missed the full hour that *Speaking of Faith* (on National Public Radio) dedicated to autism, here's a [four-minute animation](#) from Storycorps with a touching conversation between 12-year-old Joshua Littman and his mother, Sarah. Joshua has Asperger's Syndrome, which is on the autism spectrum. His mother describes it as "born without social genes."



You can get a sense of Joshua's unique perspective and perceptiveness by the questions he asks his mother including this weighty one, "Did I turn out to be the son you wanted when I was born? Did I meet your expectations..." [Click here](#) for the full story.

Government/Legislative News and Notes

USCCB on Healthcare Reform: *Setting the Record Straight*

The U.S. bishops' position on health care reform for the nation has been "misrepresented, misunderstood and misused for political and other purposes," according to a statement from three prelates most directly involved in the debate.

The bishops who lead the respective committees on pro-life advocacy, justice and human development, and migration released a statement Thursday, May 25, 2010, called "*Setting the Record Straight*."

They affirmed their position over the course of the year of debate was "unified and consistent."

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, Chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities and Episcopal Moderator of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability; Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice, Peace and Human Development; and Bishop John Wester of Salt Lake City, Chairman of the Committee on Migration, signed the statement.

Full statement: www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2010/10-104.shtml.

Bishops' analyses of flaws in the health care law: www.usccb.org/healthcare/.

USCCB Action Alert: Help Families Impacted by the Recession

The House and Senate are considering a bill, *The American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act* (H.R. 4213), that would, among other things, provide initial funding for the National Housing Trust Fund, continue support for job creation through the TANF emergency fund, and extend eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits through December 31, 2010. At [this link](#), you will find an alert with more information.

Contact your Representative and Senators and urge them to help families still struggling from the impacts of the economic recession by including the following in *The American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act* (H.R. 4213):

- Urge funding for the National Housing Trust Fund that will provide housing for very low-income families and maintain and create jobs in the hard hit construction industry.
- Urge continued funding for the successful job creation program for low-income youth.
- Urge the extension of unemployment insurance eligibility for laid-off workers through the end of this year.

Contact information is available at <http://capwiz.com/catholicbishops/> or www.house.gov and www.senate.gov or go through the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.

Contact: Thom Shellabarger, Domestic Policy Advisor, USCCB-JPHD at 202-541-3189 or tshellabarger@usccb.org with questions.

Diocesan Programs

Outreach in Love recently ended their classes for this school year with a closing Prayer Service followed by an ice cream social at St. John Neumann in Powhatan. They will resume meeting their meetings in October. For more information, call Joan Congable Mackay at 804 501-0022 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.

Young Life Capernaum, a program for young people with intellectual and physical disabilities will be meets the first 3 Mondays of the month at Holy Family Church in Virginia Beach. For more information, contact Sue Stefonowich via email - parishadvocate@gmail.com

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>

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

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