

January 2010 Parish Advocate E News

Dear Parish Advocates,

January is

Mental Wellness Month
National Birth Defects Prevention Week

Prayers of the Faithful . . .

That people of all abilities be lovingly supported in living out their Christian calling to serve the community, we pray. . .

That our community and churches be free from the fear, stigma and prejudices about mental illness, we pray . . .

Legislation/Advocacy Issues

U.S. BISHOPS CALL ON PARISHES TO HELP STOP ABORTION FUNDING IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

Our Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) has an action alert which addresses U.S. Bishop's call to the parishes to help stop abortion funding in health care reform. Click on the link below to view and act on the VCC's Action Alert.

<http://capwiz.com/vacatholic/issues/alert/?alertid=14542376>

More information is available at www.usccb.org/healthcare and includes Spanish version of bulletin announcements on health care..

Prayer for Protection of Unborn Children and Conscience Rights in Health Care Reform Legislation

O God our Father, we praise you for the work of your hands and for the precious gift of life. Grant your protection to those who are yet unborn. Inspire those who govern us to advance policies which protect the unborn child in the womb and preserve the conscience rights of all.

Jesus, Divine Healer, may our legislators find the courage to advance needed health care reform that protects the conscience rights of health

care providers and does not promote or fund abortion.

Upcoming Events

Respect Life Week – During Diocesan Respect Life Week, **January 17 thru January 23, 2010**, let us continue to celebrate the gifts, talents, and value of our parishioners with disabilities. For information on suggested **Respect Life Activities**, [click here](#).

January 17, 2010, 6 PM Violence against the unborn, Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond, Dr. John Seeds, ***Lies and deception in the violence against the unborn***. For more information contact Joan DuFour at 804 262 7315.

January 22, 2010 37th Annual March for Life, Washington, D.C.
For more information, contact Colleen Barringer at 804 545-5976.

January 28, 2010 Catholic Advocacy Day at the General Assembly For information on the Advocacy Day contact the Virginia Catholic Conference, 804 225-8565 or email office@vacatholic.org.

To view the Virginia Catholic Conference 2010 Legislative Agenda click on the link below.

http://vacatholic.org/documents/VCC-LegislativeAgendaItemsFor2010Session-APPROVED_000.pdf

March 6, 2010: 8:30 to 4:00pm Catholic Social Teaching Seminar, Pastoral Center, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294. In the next few weeks, you will be receiving information on this seminar as well as the on-line registration. Space is limited so you will want to register early.

Our two speakers are from Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice USA (CAPP*), Robert Nalewajek, its national President and a Board member of the foundation at the Vatican, and Dr. Karen Shields Wright, Director of its Certificate in Catholic Social Teaching Program co sponsored with The Catholic University of America.

*CAPP is a lay-led, pontifical foundation established by Pope John Paul II that is headquartered at the Vatican. CAPP is the vehicle for lay education and evangelization of Catholic Social Doctrine. What will be presented is true to the teaching of the magisterium and can reliably be represented as true teaching of the Church.

Mental Illness Workshop Presentation by NCPD to be held at the Pastoral Center in Richmond. **Time and Date to be announced.** Recently the NCPD Council on Mental Illness launched a Nationwide Initiative to train Catholic Clergy, Parish staff, and others such as the Disability Parish Advocates in meeting the spiritual and pastoral needs of persons with mental illness.

NCPD WEBINAR SERIES-2010

Internet Seminars to Support your Ministry Needs

February Next Webinar: "Access in Catholic Education, Part II: High Schools on **Tuesday, February 16, 2010, from 3-4:00 p.m. EDT.**

Catholic schools more perfectly reflect the single flock envisioned by Jesus, our Shepherd, when they welcome and integrate students with disabilities into the total life of the school. In this NCPD webinar, Catholic educators with significant experience at both the school and diocesan levels will share strategies and resources that enable Catholic schools to become successful, inclusive communities. To register, [click here](#). For downloadable PDF flyer, [click here](#). For more information visit the NCPD webinar page at <http://www.ncpd.org/webinars>.

To access a webinar, you must have high speed internet service. Registration for any of the webinars is free for parishioners of the Diocese of Richmond since we are affiliate members of the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD). Registration for a webinar is open about a month prior to the respective webinar. To register for a webinar go to www.NCPD.org. The webinars will also be shown at the Pastoral Center. To attend, contact Nita Grignol at 804 622-5260 or ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org.

For review of the past webinars, go to www.NCPD.org and click on webinars, then click on the topics of the webinars you would like to view.

May 2010 Advanced Considerations on Children and Youth with Mental Illness
Date, Moderator/Speakers: (TBA)

July/August 2010 Advanced Considerations on Catechesis and Children/Youth with Disabilities
Date, Moderator/Speakers: (TBA)

October 2010 Advanced Considerations on threats to the Life of People with Disabilities, Part I: Pre-Natal Diagnosis
Date, Moderator/Speakers: (TBA)

Resources

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.

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

FYI

Year of the Priest

Pope Benedict XVI has declared a "**Year for Priests**" beginning with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19, 2009. The **National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD)** is highlighting stories of the positive impact that people and priests with disabilities have made on priestly vocations.

Everyone Needs an Advocate is a story that encourages all of us, is a story about St. John Vianney and Pastor M. Bailey who guided St John Vianney in his vocation. .Ann Sherzer, Director of Ministry with Persons with Disabilities for the Diocese of Kalamazoo MI, submitted the following article. [Click here](#) to view it.

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 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.

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.

Parish Advocates

Congratulations and thank you Parish Advocates for what you are doing for individuals with disabilities.

Thank you, **Joan Congable**, Parish Advocate, St. Edward's, Richmond for your new program, Respite in Love, which provides care for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities who reside with their families. For more information, contact outreachinlove@yahoo.com Also thank you, **Karen Jackson**, Parish Advocate, Blessed Sacrament, Norfolk, who is also starting a respite care program. For information, please contact her at Karen Jackson [dacapomusic@cox.net].

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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