

<http://www.ncpd.org/>

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## Feature Stories

### Last Chance to Register for Webinar on Mental Illness!

[Click here for information.](#)

#### **National Catholic Partnership on Disability Urges Opposition to Washington State's *Initiative 1000*, the "*Death with Dignity Act*"**

The Governance Board of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) issued a statement urging the citizens of Washington State to VOTE "NO" on Initiative 1000. Although labeled the "Death with Dignity Act," Initiative 1000 actually authorizes physicians to prescribe lethal doses of narcotics so their terminal patients can kill themselves.

Oregon is presently the only state that allows physician-assisted suicide. In 1994, voters enacted that State's "Death with Dignity Act" which legalized physician-assisted suicide for competent, terminally ill patients. In contrast, Washington voters in 1991 narrowly rejected a ballot initiative which, had it passed, would have permitted a form of physician-assisted suicide.

The present Washington ban on assisted suicide, enacted in 1975, was upheld by the Supreme Court against a constitutional challenge eleven years ago. In a well-funded campaign, suicide advocates have now targeted Washington's ban as a way to jump-start their national agenda.

Ballot Initiative 1000, called the "Death with Dignity Act" after the Oregon statute on which it is patterned, would overturn Washington's ban on physician-assisted suicide. Suicide advocates hope to obtain a symbolic victory that will give momentum to their efforts in others states. As a major supporter of the initiative, former Washington Governor Booth Gardner, has made clear, though Initiative 1000 is now limited to patients with terminal conditions, the aim is ultimately to include disabled people as well.

See website for full statement : [Initiative 1000](#)

#### **Notice Concerning The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act Of 2008**

On September 25, 2008, the President signed the Americans with

Valuable Aids

Book Reviews

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### [Coming Events](#)

#### [NCPD Webinar:](#)

Oct. 6, 2008

1PM EDT

"Come to the  
Table:

Supporting the  
Sacramental Life  
of People with  
Mental Illnesses"

#### [National Mental Illness](#)

#### [Awareness](#)

[Week](#) October 5-

11, 2008

(Sunday-  
Saturday).

#### [Victorious Missionaries National Conference](#)

Oct. 17-19

#### [Diocese of Harrisburg: Commission on Catholic Social Doctrine](#)

Oct. 18

Harrisburg, PA

#### [2008 Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry](#)

Dec. 4-7

Cleveland, OH

Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 ("ADA Amendments Act" or "Act"). The Act makes important changes to the definition of the term "disability" by rejecting the holdings in several Supreme Court decisions and portions of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) ADA regulations. The Act retains the ADA's basic definition of "disability" as an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. However, it changes the way that these statutory terms should be interpreted in several ways. Most significantly, the Act:

- directs EEOC to revise that portion of its regulations defining the term "substantially limits";
- expands the definition of "major life activities" by including two non-exhaustive lists:
  - the first list includes many activities that the EEOC has recognized (e.g., walking) as well as activities that EEOC has not specifically recognized (e.g., reading, bending, and communicating);
  - the second list includes major bodily functions (e.g., "functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions);
- states that mitigating measures other than "ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses" shall not be considered in assessing whether an individual has a disability";
- clarifies that an impairment that is episodic or in remission is a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active;
- provides that an individual subjected to an action prohibited by the ADA (e.g., failure to hire) because of an actual or perceived impairment will meet the "regarded as" definition of disability, unless the impairment is transitory and minor;
- provides that individuals covered only under the "regarded as" prong are not entitled to reasonable accommodation; and
- emphasizes that the definition of "disability" should be interpreted broadly.

EEOC will be evaluating the impact of these changes on its enforcement guidances and other publications addressing the ADA.

Effective Date: The ADA Amendments Act is effective as of January 1, 2009.

## **NCPD News and Tips**

### **Upcoming Webinar**

"Come to the Table:

Nurturing the Sacramental Life  
of People with Disabilities"

Oct. 6, 2008 1PM Eastern Time

For handouts and previous Webinars please [click here](#).

### **NCPD Offers Resources to Observe Mental Illness Awareness Week and the National Day of Prayer.**

[Click here](#) for news and resources.

### **NCPD Chair Elect Article in USCCB Respect Life Packet**

In anticipation of October being Respect Life Month, NCPD's Ethics Committee Chair and Board Chair Elect, Stephen L. Mikochik, wrote one of the articles that was included in the USCCB Office for Pro-Life Activities *Respect Life Packet*. It is entitled "A Will for Living". To download the pamphlet and long versions of all the *Respect Life Packet* articles go to <http://www.usccb.org/>, click on "Departments" at the top of the page, scroll to "Pro-Life Activities" in the listing and click, then go to "Respect Life Program", and click "2008-2009". There you will find a complete listing of all the articles and resources related to liturgies and activities. NCPD is proud to have participated in this important annual event in service to the Church of the U.S. and to see Steve's work featured as he becomes more familiar to you for his work with NCPD.

### **Futile Care Statement in *Origins***

The full text of NCPD's *Futile Care Statement* was published in the September 18, 2008, Volume 38, #15 edition of *Origins*. Again, as we approach the month of October in which we recall our respect for all life, the timeliness of this publication is appreciated.

### **Disability Ministry Toolkit:**

Fresh Ideas for Implementing the *Bishops' Pastoral Statement on Persons with Disabilities*. Available at: [ncpd.org](http://ncpd.org) or by clicking [Disability Ministry Toolkit](#)

## **Diocesan/Partner News**

### **Disabilities Action Team in Buffalo**

In the Diocese of Buffalo a thirteen-member team has been created that is made up of members of diocesan and parish organizations in support of ministry with and for persons with disability. They have established four goals each for accessibility, awareness, and ministry. To quote their brochure, "The Disabilities Action Team works to increase awareness and inclusion of all individuals with disabilities within our Catholic parishes by opening doors to accessibility, opening minds through education and awareness, and opening hearts to minister to the needs. Composed of members of Diocesan and parish organizations with an interest and responsibility for serving those with disabilities, the Team is rich in expertise and resources." Click here (insert a live link to the brochure) to view their creative and engaging brochure. Contact Sharon Urbaniak for more information at 716-847-5514 or [surbaniak@buffalodiocese.org](mailto:surbaniak@buffalodiocese.org). See the [brochure](#).

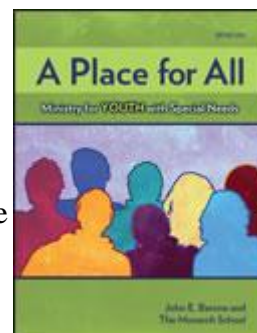
# Resources

## Valuable Aids

- Below is a link to the Catechism in Audio format. This is a free site.  
<http://www.thecatholiccatechism.com/>
- Below is the text of the Catechism on the Vatican site.  
[http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_INDEX.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM)
- The USCCB has an audio version of the United States Catholic Catechism.  
<http://www.usccbpublishing.org/>
- The NAB bible is available on the USCCB website.  
<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/>
- There are many version of the bible available on CD and audio. Below is one of them.  
<http://www.theaudiobible.com/Bible-On-CD--Catholic-NAB.asp>
- Here is one on MP3.  
<http://www.theaudiobible.com/mp3-bible-cd/Catholic-Bible-MP3-iPod.asp>
- Below is a link for turning on a narrator in windows XP for Microsoft Word.  
<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/training/windowsxp/narratorturnon.aspx>
- If you are looking for the New Testament in an easier reading version, the Contemporary English Version (CEV) is translated at a 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. Check <http://www.bibles.com/> and click on "Bibles & New Testaments", then click "Christian Faith Tradition", then click "Catholic". They cost \$2.19 each or \$103.48 for a case of 52.

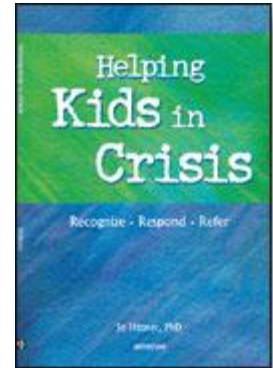
## Book Reviews

*A Place For All, Ministry for Youth with Special Needs* by John E. Barone. The Monarch School supports young conditions of "neurological autism to Tourette's syndrome and link provided here for St. Mary's Press describing the book as one that into the challenging lives of children differences, the difficulties faced by the them, and the shift in philosophy and for religious education professionals able to honestly say, "There is a place community. " *A Place for All* describes disability setting, one more model and story of a program that has met needs in the continuum of options for inclusion.



people with severe differences" from bipolar disorder. The leads to information "...opens a window with neurological adults who work with methodology required and volunteers to be for all in our a specialized

***Helping Kids in Crisis: Recognize, Respond, Refer*** by Jo Hittner, PhD. This book shares cases, lists signs and symptoms, and suggests when and from whom to seek additional professional help for more than 30 of the most common pastoral care issues that can be faced by today's youth in any typical parish or school setting. It is a wonderful reference work for all who work with young people experiencing such issues as behavioral and mental illnesses, bereavement, suicide, and divorce, to name a few. Pastoral care strategies are described and outlined.



At these links, you can click on the book's cover to get further information and download a sampler of each book that includes its table of contents. The techniques and ideas for both of these books by St. Mary's Press could have application in a variety of settings.

A Place for All: <http://www.smp.org/ItemDetail.cfm?ItemNum=2305>

Helping Kids in Crisis: <http://www.smp.org/ItemDetail.cfm?ItemNum=3448>

## Coming Events

### October 6, 2008

NCPD Mental Illness Council Webinar: Nurturing the Sacramental Life of People with Mental Illnesses, 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Registration information at [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org) or contact Dr. Nancy Thompson at [nthompson@ncpd.org](mailto:nthompson@ncpd.org).

### October 5-11, 2008

National Mental Illness Awareness Week: Building Community, Taking Action. Click <http://www.ncpd.org/MentalIllnessAwarenessWeek.htm> for prayer and other resources.

### October 17-19, 2008

Victorious Missionaries  
National Conference  
"The Journey of Life: Reflections for the Spiritual Explorer"  
The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville IL  
Registration Form [www.vmus.org](http://www.vmus.org) or call 613-394-6281 (voice and tty)

### October 18, 2008

Diocese of Harrisburg: Commission on Catholic Social Doctrine  
Diocesan Symposium  
"In God's Image: Disabilities Ministry and Catholic Social Thought"  
The Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, PA  
For Information Call: Ginny Duncan 717- 657-4804

**December 4-7, 2008**

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry  
2008 Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry  
Biennial Education Conference for Adults Working with High School Youth  
*Formed by Living Waters*  
Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland, OH  
[www.nfcym.org/nccym](http://www.nfcym.org/nccym)

**Our Mission:**

**Rooted in Gospel values that affirm the dignity of every person, the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) works collaboratively to ensure meaningful participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of the life of the Church and society.**

**Visit our Website:** [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org)

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Our goal with NCPD E-NEWS is to be brief, timely, and relevant. We trust that you'll look forward to these postings, read them, and pass them on. We count on your feedback. NCPD Director of Programs, Nancy Thompson, edits NCPD E-NEWS. Please submit to her at [nthompson@ncpd.org](mailto:nthompson@ncpd.org) any items you want considered for inclusion, using the phrase "E-NEWS Submission" or "E-NEWS Response" in the subject line.