

**NCPD  
E-NEWS  
January  
2009**



[www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org)

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## Feature Story

### Reflections for the New Year

*Ephesians 1:15-17 Therefore, I, too, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and of your love for all the holy ones, do not cease giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him.*

NCPD staff members are fortunate and blessed to encounter so many loving, wise and knowledgeable servants of "the holy ones" through the contacts we have with you.  
What vessels of grace you are.

*Philippians 1:3-6 I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Your partnership for the gospel is something that NCPD reaches out to link with our own. Let us be partners in this gospel mission that the One who began this good work in us, for and with our brothers and sisters with disability, will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

*Philemon 1:4-6 I give thanks to my God always, remembering you in my prayers, as I hear of the love and the faith you have in the Lord Jesus and for all the holy ones, so that your partnership in the faith may become effective in recognizing every good there is in us that leads to Christ.*

Let us commit this coming year to prayer for one another

and for all the holy ones we serve and journey alongside. Let us come in the partnership of faith to the fullness of goodness, thanksgiving and joy in us that leads to Christ.

*James 1:2-3 Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.*

And finally, do consider it all joy when you encounter and overcome various trials in ministry. This will be. None of us are alone.

We can always reach out and embrace support through Christ and through one another in Christ. In this way we will all persevere in faith.

A blessed and holy 2009 to you from the staff and volunteers of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability...

Jan      Nancy      Bob      Yan      Peg      Helen  
and      Steve

## **NCPD News and Tips**

### **Happy 2009!**

A full color calendar is now available from NCPD, listing our upcoming webinars, events and even the 2009 Holy Days and Holidays. You can download one at [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org)

***NCPD will be there, where it counts, for you!***

### **Pro Life Leadership Mass, January 21**

NCPD has been invited by the USCCB's Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities to participate in its first- ever Leadership Mass at Trinity University in Washington, DC. We will be there, representing you, your hopes and aspirations for Catholics with disabilities.

### **January Youth Rally & Mass for Life, January 22, Washington, DC:**

NCPD board members, staff and diocesan directors will have priority seating at the annual Youth Rally and Mass held at Washington, DC's Verizon Center. Seated on the floor with them in front of the altar, will be gift bearers from the Inclusion Program at the **Academy of the Holy Cross**, Kensington, MD. Every year at this extraordinary event, young persons with disabilities bring up the sacramental gifts to Most Reverend Donald Wuerl, S.T.D., Archbishop

of Washington. NCPD honors these young women as they represent the giftedness of all Catholics with disabilities.

### **30 for the 30<sup>th</sup>!**

Join with diocesan partners, family members and parish leaders in celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Pastoral Statement of US Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities*. Make a contribution to NCPD in the form of a gift of \$30 per month, per quarter or a gift in a multiple of \$30.

30 years represents a generation's worth of work. Join NCPD as we step out to meet the challenges of 2009 and beyond...

For more information, go to

<http://www.ncpd.org/Donate%20to%20NCPD.htm>

Better Gifting! And give a gift that really counts for something... Make a donation to NCPD in tribute to a priest, deacon, family member or friend. Then download NCPD's "Good Gifting" Certificate by clicking here. [Good Gifting](#)

### **Visionary News:**

#### **Happy Birthday, Louis Braille!**

January 4 will be the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Like a constellation of dots along a page, this system has been used by blind and visually impaired people to teach reading and writing the world over. Braille, like many other persons with a disability, became a "change agent" and transformed his own situation into a life of inspired service.

**...AND... To Honor Louis Braille's contribution...NCPD has one of our own!**

#### **Embossed (Large Print) Sacramentary and Lectionary**

NCPD has just completed producing a beautifully bound Sacramentary (with companion Lectionary on CD) in font sizes 24, 34 and 44, for all liturgical cycles and years. NCPD provides these to priests and deacons who need enlarged print in order to continue in their ministry. The Sacramentary is bound in red leather with an embossed chalice on the cover.

Consider purchasing one for your parish or in honor of a priest or deacon, and we will create a specially designed name plate for you. For more information, contact NCPD

at 202-529-2933 or at [ncpd@ncpd.org](mailto:ncpd@ncpd.org).

**READTHISTOME** is another service to blind and low vision persons. Fax your document to a toll free number and a volunteer will call back and read the document. More information is at [readthistome.org](http://readthistome.org) or call 1-877-333-8847.

### **New NCPD Webinar Season Schedule**

**Webinar Schedule Features Access** We are happy to announce the schedule of our upcoming webinars. Make a note in your calendars! Registration links will be available on our website at [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org) January 9, 2009. We will be collaborating with many of our previous webinar partners, in addition to three new ones: the Georgetown Center for Liturgy, the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC), and the USCCB Office of Catholic Education.

This season we will again have some wonderful presenters and will feature a special 1½ hour session that includes an interview of **Fr. Ron Rolheiser** by psychiatrist, **Dr. Tom Welch**, on *Access to Suicide Prevention and Ministry Support*. **Claire Woodruff** will speak from her experience as a family member survivor of suicide. There will be extra time for live questions and answers.

We plan to add substantially to your multi-media disability ministry tools on our website. For the first time we will be offering CEUs for the March webinar attendance through the Georgetown University School of Theology.

This season of NCPD webinars will include two in the 2009-2010 school year that are related to the topic of inclusion in Catholic schools for students with disabilities: *Access in Catholic Elementary Schools* and *Access in Catholic High Schools*. We will feature a new book published by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) on inclusion in Catholic high schools that will become available for purchase for the first time at the 2009 NCEA Conference.

**Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 1:00-2:00 p.m. EDT** *Access to Liturgical Spaces: Welcoming ALL to this Place*. This NCPD webinar is produced in partnership with the Georgetown Center for Liturgy/EnVision Church and others. To achieve the value that "All are welcome", we will explore what constitutes an accessible liturgical space and church complex, and how to achieve it. Presenter, **Robert Habiger**, AIA, ACLS, architect from Albuquerque, NM and

Moderator, **Anne Koester**, J.D., M.A., Associate Director (Editorial Director, EnVision Church), the Georgetown Center for Liturgy, Washington, DC will provide many varied examples of how access to liturgical spaces proclaims welcome in a most profound way. Robert and Anne request that registered participants forward questions early to Dr. Nancy Thompson at [nthompson@ncpd.org](mailto:nthompson@ncpd.org) so they can research and find pictorial responses to help you visualize the answers to your questions. These early questions will be accepted until February 10, 2009. As with other webinars, there will be opportunity for live questions during the presentation. One contact hour of CEU's will be available from the Georgetown University School of Theology by prior arrangement.

**Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 1:00-2:30 p.m. EDT** *Access to Tools in Addressing Suicide: Pastoral Supports and Prevention Strategies.* NCPD in partnership with the NCPD Council on Mental Illness will produce a third webinar on this, one of the most highly requested topics. We will feature noted columnist, teacher and theologian **Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI**, PhD, STD, President of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, TX and **Dr. Thomas Welch**, an adult and forensic psychiatrist in private practice in Portland, Oregon. Dr. Welch holds a Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry and is a member of the NCPD Council on Mental Illness. **Claire Woodruff**, Religious Education Specialist, Department of Evangelization Services, Archdiocese of Portland and Executive Director of the Oregon Suicide Bereavement Group will also be presenting from the prospective of a family member survivor of suicide. The time is extended to 1 ½ hours so there will be more time for live questions and answers from Fr. Rolheiser, Dr. Welch and Ms. Woodruff.

**Wed., July 15, 2009, 1:00-2:00 p.m. EDT** *Access in Liturgy: Making Liturgical Ministries More Accessible to People with Disabilities.* An NCPD webinar in partnership with the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) and others, will describe ways to make liturgical ministries more accessible to those with disability. Presenter, **Patrick Gorman**, DMA, has served as director of the Office of Worship of the Diocese of Madison since 1995. He also serves as the director of the Madison Diocesan Choir, musical director of the Philharmonic Chorus of Madison, and choir director at Saint Raphael Cathedral. Patrick has written articles for a number of national liturgical publications, including *Liturgy 90*, *AIM Resources*, and *Today's Liturgy*. He served as Region 8 representative and as a member of the Board of Directors

on the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, chairing the standing committee for liturgical arts and music. Presenter, **Karen Murray**, Archdiocese of Boston Director, Office for Persons with Disabilities and member of the NCPD Board of Directors, Patrick, and Moderator, **Lisa Tarker**, Executive Director, Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, Washington, DC, will stir and awaken our ability to call forth the gifts of people with disabilities in liturgical roles and ministries.

**Tues., October 13, 2009, 3:00-4:00 p.m. EDT** *Access in Catholic Education: Elementary Schools.* NCPD in partnership with the USCCB Office of Catholic Education and others, with **Marie Powell**, Executive Director, serving as moderator, will produce this first in a two part series in the 2009-2010 school year on the topic of inclusion in Catholic schools. Presenter, **Sally Todd**, Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Orange in California, and Presenter, **Eileen Grams**, Inclusion Specialist, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Elementary School, Potomac, MD, will speak from their experiences as administrator and educator in dealing successfully and creatively with the challenges they encountered in providing access to students with disabilities of a wide range in Catholic elementary schools. Sally will share about a unique graduate program for special education teachers planning to teach in Catholic schools.

**Tues., February 16, 2010, 3:00-4:00 p.m. EST** *Access in Catholic Education: High Schools.* This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> webinar in a two-part series in the 2009-2010 school year produced by NCPD in partnership with the USCCB Office of Catholic Education and others. **Marie Powell**, Executive Director of the Office of Catholic Education will again serve as moderator, drawing from her years of experience as an inclusive educator. Presenters will include **Doreen Engel**, MA, Director of Special Education, Archdiocese of Washington, DC. Doreen is a former teacher from an inclusive Catholic high school. She authored one of the chapters in the new NCEA book on inclusion in Catholic high schools and will share that book with us, as well as presenting the experience of inclusion from the teacher's perspective. Presenter **Dr. Karen Tichy** of St. Louis, Missouri, Associate Superintendent for Instruction, Department of Special Education, Catholic Education Office will share her experience and successes as an administrator in the Archdiocese of St. Louis who has creatively supported access for students with disabilities.

We look forward to producing this slate of webinars for the

support of your ministry in the Church. Thank you to all who have helped make the previous webinars so successful and through whose suggestions the present schedule has been developed. Contact Dr. Nancy Thompson at [nthompson@ncpd.org](mailto:nthompson@ncpd.org) with questions.

## Diocesan/Partner News

### Respect Life Week's Disability Focus - Archdiocese of Richmond

A bulletin insert for January was distributed by the Archdiocese of Richmond Disability Ministry Director, Nita Grignol to heighten awareness of how topics related to disability are an important part of Respect Life Week. This bulletin insert is an effective means through which diocesan offices and parish committees or commissions can work together. An insert such as this expands the outreach and connections for Respect Life Week.

Nita collaborated with other diocesan directors and her bishop to create the diocese's guidelines, *Celebrating the Sacraments for Persons with Disabilities*. Make sure to check them out at: [www.richmonddiocese.org/disabilities](http://www.richmonddiocese.org/disabilities). They provide a wonderful, well written model for such diocesan guidelines. (Note the last paragraph in the bulletin insert.)

Following is the copy for Richmond's bulletin insert.

#### Bulletin Insert

Isaiah-56:7 . . . 'My house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples'

Last June, our diocese observed the Thirtieth Anniversary of the 1978 *U.S. Bishops'* (USCCB) *Pastoral Statement on Persons with Disabilities*, with a diocesan-wide Inclusion Sunday. Just as Inclusion Sunday was the catalyst for many parishes to begin 'advocating' for the active participation of all in the life of the community, each according to their ability, so too *Respect Life Week* can provide opportunities to continue welcoming individuals with disabilities.

In a letter recognizing the Thirtieth Anniversary of the *Pastoral*, Cardinal Justin Rigali, Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities, USCCB and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Episcopal Moderator, National Catholic Partnership for Disabilities (NCPD), member, Committee on Pro-Life

Activities, USCCB wrote that we

". . . continue to advance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century our Church's outreach, catechesis, advocacy and support in the important work of disabilities ministry." Further, they called on. . . "all people of good will to find new pathways, develop new partnerships, and bring new vitality to this ministry, ever mindful that we are one flock under the care of a single shepherd."

#### **What can we do during Respect Life Week:**

- Continue welcoming and including individuals with disabilities into our communities.
- Know and educate all on the *Pastoral Statement*, its history & legacy and honor the spirit of the *Pastoral*. ([www.ncpd.org/pastoral\\_statement\\_1978.htm](http://www.ncpd.org/pastoral_statement_1978.htm))
- Know and educate all on USCCB's Sacramental Guidelines for Persons with Disabilities. ([www.ncpd.org/Sacramental%20Guidelines.htm](http://www.ncpd.org/Sacramental%20Guidelines.htm))
- Make sure each parish has a volunteer Disability Parish Advocate, appointed by the pastor to act as a liaison for the parishioners with disabilities.
- Join the March for Life on January 22, 2009 in Washington, DC to give witness to the sanctity of life.
- Support the Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) in advocating for disability funding, support services and legislation that promotes community-based services for individuals with disabilities.

We live in a time when up to 90% of pregnant women who are given a Down syndrome diagnosis have chosen to have an abortion. That's 9 out of 10 babies, 9 out of 10 human beings that will never be able to make a mark in the world--all because of an extra chromosome. We must guard against developing some supposedly 'perfect' human specimen.

We live in a time when many question the value of individuals with disabilities, support euthanasia and limiting health care to individuals with disabilities.

We live in time when embryonic stem cell research is touted as a scientific advance instead of as an exploitation of some human beings for the possible benefit of others.

Our Catholic commitment to defend human life from conception until natural death is evident in how we include and care for our brothers and sisters with disabilities.



During *Respect Life Week* let us continue to build what Pope John Paul II called "a culture of life." Please see the back side of this insert for articles/brochures which touch on disability issues and the dignity of each person.

(Side two of bulletin insert)

**The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities has published a series of articles/brochures in its annual *Respect Life Program*. A sampling of those articles is provided below. The general website for the Secretariat is [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife).**

2008 "A Will for Living" by Stephen L. Mikochik, Esq,  
NCPD Board Chair

[www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/mikochik.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/mikochik.pdf)

2007 "The Person with Mental Illness: Bearing God's Image" by Rev. Richard Gill,

L.C. [www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/Gill.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/Gill.pdf)

2004 "Human Dignity in the 'Vegetative' State" by Richard M. Doerflinger

[www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/04doerflinger.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/04doerflinger.shtml)

2002 "The Graduate-Level Course in Parenting" by Mary and Vance Salter

[www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/salter.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/salter.shtml)

1997 "Hear My Voice: A Cry for a Truly Compassionate Society" by Lisa K. Gigliotti, Esq.

[www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/97rlpgig.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/97rlpgig.shtml)

1996 "The Quality of Life: Who's to Judge?" by Richard M. Doerflinger

[www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/96rlpdoe.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/96rlpdoe.shtml)

**The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) has numerous articles on their website about disabilities and the dignity of each person.**

[www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org)

USCCB: Cardinal Rigali and Bishop Murphy issue statement on legal protections for unborn children and assistance to women.

NCPD Statement on Initiative 1000, the Washington State

"Death with Dignity Act."

NCPD Futile Care Statement

**The Ministry for Persons with Disabilities in the Richmond Catholic Diocese has information on the Disability Parish Advocate Program and the diocese's guidelines, *Celebrating the Sacraments for Persons with Disabilities*.**

**[www.richmonddiocese.org/disabilities](http://www.richmonddiocese.org/disabilities).**

For questions or information on the Diocese of Richmond's Disability Ministry, contact Nita Grignol, 804 622-5260 or [ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org).

(end of bulletin insert)

Other ideas for Respect Life Week include:

- Ask your diocesan paper to interview a person with disability to tell their positive story about their "quality of life".
- Have students with disabilities share their stories with peers in religious education classes or their school.
- Or organize a pro-life march in your area.

## Public Policy

**Social Security Newsletter Link** The Social Security newsletter at [www.socialsecurity.gov/newsletter](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/newsletter) frequently contains very helpful items for information and referral that can be beneficial for families of children with disabilities and those who receive social security benefits. If you send out a newsletter to families or to your parish advocates, this is a good link to share with them.

## Coming Events

**Friday, January 16, 2009 to Wednesday, January 21, 2009**

Pastoral Week 2009-2009 National Conference for Pastoral Workers in Deaf Ministry: Bridging the Gap  
National Catholic Office for the Deaf (NCOD)  
San Francisco Bay Area Marriott Hotel  
San Mateo, CA

Use this link to register online, to download a program and for hotel reservation

details: <http://www.ncod.org/PastoralWeek2008.asp>

**Sunday, January 18, 2009 to Tuesday, January 20, 2009**

**2009 NCEA Special Needs Conference**

The third annual NCEA Special Needs Conference will take place at the Doubletree Guest Suite; Charleston-Historic District in Charleston, SC

Contact Br. Robert Bimonte, FSC or Janice Kraus at 202-378-5706,

by email at [jkraus@ncea.org](mailto:jkraus@ncea.org),

or go to

[http://www.ncea.org/events/event.asp?event\\_id=119](http://www.ncea.org/events/event.asp?event_id=119)

at the National Catholic Educational Association web site for more information.

**February 22-25, 2009**

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL MINISTRY GATHERING**

USCCB, NCPD and 16 Other Catholic Organizations

"Christ Our Hope: Healing a Broken World"

Partner Organizational Meetings - February 19-22

NCPD Wrap-around - February 22, 1-3:00 PM

Core Meetings- February 22-25

Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill - Washington, DC

[www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org](http://www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org)

**Monday, April 27 through Thursday, April 30, 2009**

National Conference on Catechetical Leadership 73<sup>rd</sup>

Annual Conference, Dearborn Michigan Hyatt, Archdiocese of Detroit. To register or for additional information contact

NCCL at [www.nccl.org](http://www.nccl.org).

**NCPD Webinars:**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 1:00-2:00 p.m. EDT**

*Access to Liturgical Spaces: Welcoming ALL to this Place.*

**Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 1:00-2:30 p.m. EDT**

*Access to Tools in Addressing Suicide: Pastoral Supports and Prevention Strategies.*

**Wed., July 15, 2009, 1:00-2:00 p.m. EDT**

*Access in Liturgy: Making Liturgical Ministries More Accessible to People with Disabilities.*

**Tues., October 13, 2009, 3:00-4:00 p.m. EDT**

*Access in Catholic Education: Elementary Schools.*

**Tues., February 16, 2010, 3:00-4:00 p.m. EST**

*Access in Catholic Education: High Schools.*

**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.