

**NCPD
E-NEWS
March 2009**



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

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Cleveland Pastoral Minister wins award: First full-time Pastoral Minister in U.S. who is deaf.



Irish American Archives Society "Walk of Life 2009 Award" was recently presented to Mary Ellen Kenneley-Czelusniak in Cleveland, OH.

Mary Ellen was honored because of her twenty years of

ministry as a pastoral worker for Catholic Charities Office of Deaf Ministry.

A pioneer in the Church, Mary Ellen is the first deaf person in the United States to serve as a full time pastoral minister.

Her co-workers and Diocesan Disability Ministry Director Dennis McNulty touted her many years of outstanding dedication as a religious education teacher, a home visitor of the deaf, a leader in Mary's Rosary Guild and the Cleveland Catholic Deaf Center, and as a generous person, always willing to give of her time and her skills to make the world better. Congratulations Mary Ellen!!

Website Conversion

Through the generous support of Powers Foundation and the Order of Malta Federal Association, NCPD will soon be moving to a new website platform. Come back and visit us soon to view the new features that will be

Artists Network

FUN*RUN for Disability Rights 2009

ASD and Transition Issues Workshop

[Legislation](#)

Settlement Agreement with Wal-Mart

Support the Community Choice Act

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available. Below is a sample of the new look.

The screenshot shows the NCPD website homepage. At the top is a blue navigation bar with links: Home, Contact Us, Links, Support NCPD, Site Map, Text only, and A A A. Below this is a green header with the NCPD logo (a stylized cross) and the text 'NCPD NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARTNERSHIP ON DISABILITY faith • giftedness • partnership'. To the right of the logo is a photo of a group of people, including a person in a wheelchair, holding a banner. Below the header is a blue navigation bar with links: About NCPD, Publications, Ministries/Programs, Accessible Design, and Views & Policy. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Upcoming Events' (May 6: Webinar, Part II; May 12: Pokagon Ministry Meeting), 'News And Views' (Futile Care Statement, Faith and Light Expands, Xavier Products Now Online, Reflections on Papal Visit), 'Did You Know?' (80% Percent of persons with Down Syndrome are aborted), 'Featured Items' (Distractions and Awkward Moments? Well, yes, but what would Jesus do?), and 'Quick Links' (Local Ministries, Educational Material, Videos, Large Print, Online Communities, Diocesan Directors, Publishers). At the bottom of the page is contact information: NCPD, 415 Michigan Avenue, N.E., Suite 95, Washington, DC 20017-4501. Phone: 202-529-2933; 202-529-2934 (tty); 202-529-4878 (fax). NCPD is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit corporation. Design by CEDC.

NCPD News and Tips

If you hurry, there is still time to register for our upcoming webinar, "Access to Liturgical Spaces: Welcoming ALL to This Place." It will be held Tues., March 10, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. EST. [Click here to register.](#) [Click here to download flyer.](#)

The webinar will be live captioned. NCPD Affiliates' parish and diocesan personnel seeking resources for disability ministry attend for free. National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) members attend for free by prior arrangement. All others are charged \$30 per logged-in computer. [Click here](#) to see if your (arch)diocese is an NCPD Affiliate.



NCPD's Giftedness Gala and online Silent Auction Be watching our website and the April E-News for more information about the Thursday, April 16, 2009, Giftedness Gala and online

Silent Auction, honoring Dr. David Byers, Brian Stevens and Dolores Wilson. Dr. Byers was one of the original members of the Bishops' Committee on Disability and a contributor to the [1978 Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities](#). He remains active in ministry today. Brian Stevens is a business executive, member of the Knights of Malta, an ex-officio NCPD Board member and founder of the Catholic Disabilities Foundation (CDF) and has been a fundraiser and advocate for disability ministry in the Church. Dolores Wilson is a long-time ministry pioneer, who served as the Director of Disability Ministry for the Archdiocese of Washington DC and is the Eastern Provincial Coordinator of Faith and Light in the United States. (See more below in "Coming Events.") Join us to honor these extraordinary individuals and their work for and with people with disabilities.

Outreach to students with Autism in Religious Education was featured on Feb. 25 in an article in the [Boston Globe](#). St. Peter's Parish in Warwick, RI has a program which specializes in support for students with Autism that is noted to be the first in their state. The description of the classroom and the visual image of the script used for the Lord's Prayer help us see how their work has the potential to succeed. Congratulations to them for their efforts in adapting catechetical materials.

For other ideas on working with catechetical students having Autism, go to our NCPD website at www.ncpd.org and click on the "Webinars" link at the top of the page. The May 6, 2008 Webinar entitled "Catechesis with Children/Youth with Disabilities ~ Part II: Applying the Vision" is a one-hour inservice on the topic of catechesis for children and youth with Autism, Intellectual Disabilities and Sensory Disabilities. You can click on links to [Replay Webinar](#) or to download and use handouts and slides: [PowerPoint:Catechesis- Sensory Disabilities](#), [PowerPoint:Catechesis- Autism/ Intellectual Disabilities](#), [Handout:Bibliography/ Resource List](#), [Handout:Blind/Low Vision Tips](#), [Handout:Group Discussion](#), [Handout:Deaf/Hard of Hearing Tips](#), and [Handout:Helpful Strategies and Tips](#).

Down Syndrome Awareness Articles There have been several articles in February regarding the discovery of the genetic link to Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21) and connecting it with the terrible rate of abortion for fetuses discovered to be affected, estimating it to be as high as 90%. Following are three links that contain short but informative perspectives featured on [Zenit](#), the electronic news service from Rome. [Discovery of Down Chromosome Called a Victory](#); [The Hard Case of Down Syndrome](#); [Gifts, Not Mistakes](#).

People with Disabilities Make a Difference! Our ministries are committed to that ideal. A story told by Barbara Glanz, CSP, and shared with us by Michele Priddy of Hendersonville, TN, beautifully illustrates that understanding. We now share it with you in recognition of March being known as MR/DD or IDD Awareness Month, whichever you prefer. This story of Johnny, a young man with Down Syndrome who is a bagger at a grocery store really touched our hearts. We hope you enjoy this story of [Simple Truths](#).

Editor's Note: Mention of this short video in E-News is not meant as an endorsement or sales promotion by NCPD of the products advertised at the end of the video.

Culture of Life Film Awards Issued (Zenit 2-25-09). The Oscars aren't the only ones noted world-wide—the [2009 Culture of Life Movie Awards](#) honor the best picture, actors, and screenplay from the perspective of a culture of life. The special awards are given for the production of major films in defense of life released in 2008, four related to abortion and one to euthanasia.

Diocesan/Partner News

Disability Ministry Tip Sheet by Marsha Rivas, Toledo Once again Marsha is sharing her treasures with us all through the E-News. Thanks to her we can explore creative ways for "[Teaching Tolerance and Acceptance](#)" as well as expand awareness through a wonderful booklist for kids that she calls "[Children's Books on Disability](#)." Be sure to share with catechists and catechetical leaders, as well as save for yourself our second offering of these monthly Disability Ministry Tip Sheets from Marsha's experience and research.

March: Intellectual & Developmental Disability Awareness Month Ruth Breland, Diocesan Disability Director from the Diocese of Mobile, wrote several prayers of the faithful to be used at masses during March, a month highlighted as Intellectual Disability Awareness Month by the National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry (NAfIM). Thanks to Ruth and NAfIM, we are including this [link](#) to her list that is found at the NAfIM website. She is happy for you to use them to share with your parishes.

Lee Nagel from NCCL passed on this link to us about [Sean Forbes](#), a young Deaf musician who started a non-profit called [D-PAN](#), or Deaf Performing Artists' Network. Sean came from a musical family and dreamed of having his own career in the field. Letting nothing stand between him and his dream, he found a way to bring it to fruition. Click [here](#) to take a look at his inspiring story.

Bob Kafka from ADAPT would like to share with you about The FUN*RUN for Disability Rights 2009 - "Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Olmstead Decision" that will be held Sunday, April 26, 2009 in Washington, DC at Upper Senate Park. This year they will be soliciting "CHAMPIONS" (see links) to assist them in their advocacy for housing and other community services and supports for people with disabilities of all ages during 2009, the 10th Anniversary of the Olmstead Decision.

If you are not familiar with them, ADAPT is a 25 year old advocacy organization of people with disabilities that originally started as American Disabled for Accessible Public Transit to get lifts on buses. As you can tell they were successful in pursuing federal laws to require access to public transportation for people with disabilities. They moved on to seeking funding for attendant programs, then housing and other community services. ADAPT is no longer considered an acronym because it is too hard to fit all the issues into those letters, so this organization of self-advocates with disabilities is now simply known as ADAPT.

All contributions are tax-deductible and all funds will be used for disability advocacy. None of the funds raised go to salaries or administrative costs. If you have any question please contact Bob Kafka, FUN*RUN Coordinator at bob.adapt@sbcglobal.net or 512/431-4085. [FUN*RUN Flyer](#), [FUN*RUN Sponsor Form](#)

ASD: Religious Education and Significant Life Events in a Community of Faith

Sr. Kathleen Schipani from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Lorie Brew have been asked to present a workshop at the LaSalle University Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) transitions conference to be held at the university's Philadelphia campus on May 1, 2009. [Click here](#) for more information.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: This workshop will present models of Religious Education for

individuals with ASD, current resources and successful strategies. Faith communities partnering with parents to prepare individuals with ASD for significant life events and religious milestones will be discussed.

REGISTRATION DETAILS: Green Tree Partnerships and La Salle University will host the 3rd Annual Autism Conference, a one-day resource-rich symposium at La Salle's Philadelphia campus.

The event is expected to attract 300 participants including parents, college students, professionals in education and behavioral health, as well as persons with ASD.

Date: Friday, May 1, 2009

Time: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Place: La Salle University, Student Union Building, Philadelphia

Cost: \$30 (La Salle Students/Alumni & Green Tree Clients/Parents)

\$50 (University Students & Parents of Autistic Children)

\$95 (Professionals/Other Attendees)

REGISTER at www.gtpartnerships.org

Call (215) 843-4528 or (609) 518-1259 for more information.

Ann Sherzer from the Diocese of Kalamazoo told us about a group that meets in her diocese who have begun a wonderful Lenten project. They are called the Beacons of Faith Group. Its members are adults with IDD. Please visit their web page [Reflections from our Community](#). You will be introduced briefly to the Beacons of Faith and what they do, in their own words.

From there you can click on a link that will take you to their reflections about Lent and Lenten practices. You do not want to miss them. Two examples: "Don't cheat; don't give up spinach if you hate spinach and never eat it anyway." "Be careful what you say. Don't use Lent as an excuse to be grumpy." Go and see this beautiful list that is filled with wisdom and will continue to grow during Lent.

Legislation

Settlement Agreement between the United States of America and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act Many complaints alleged that persons with disabilities were denied access to Wal-Mart stores or were denied an equal opportunity to shop, free of repeated challenges by Wal-Mart staff, because they were accompanied by service animals. Service animals are dogs and other animals that are individually trained to work or perform tasks for persons with disabilities. The settlement agreement covers all facilities located in the United States where Wal-Mart sells any good or service to members of the public, including all Wal-Mart stores, Supercenters, Sam's Clubs, and Neighborhood Markets. The settlement agreement, which will be effective for three years, requires Wal-Mart to take several steps to improve access for customers with disabilities, as well as compensate many complainants from a \$150,000 fund awarded for that purpose.

Support ADAPT in advocating for the Community Choice Act which will allow Medicaid funds to cover community based services, thus enabling people with disabilities to live in the local community of their choice. Ask your U.S. Senators and Representative in Congress to become initial cosponsors of the Community Choice Act (CCA)!

It only takes a COUPLE of minutes. CCA will be reintroduced soon. Rather than start all over

again building the number of cosponsors, we want to have the bill reintroduced with as many initial cosponsors as YOU help us get.

NCPD joined the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA) to support this legislation in the last Congress. [Click here](#) to read the letter.

Use these links to contact your US Senators and Representative.

Contact your Senators at:

<http://capwiz.com/rochestercdr/issues/alert/?alertid=12598871>

Contact your Representative at:

<http://capwiz.com/rochestercdr/issues/alert/?alertid=12597841>

-CCA Summary (will be assigned a new bill #):

<http://www.adapt.org/casa/summary.htm>

-For CCA Talking Points:<http://www.adapt.org/casa/talkingpts.html>

Resources

Lenten Internet Resources from the USCCB The United States Bishops have provided a plethora of resources for adult Lenten enrichment and reflection through articles, photos, podcasts, audio, video and meditations. Go to this site at the [Bishops' Lenten Adult Resources Page](#).

Spanish and English Sacramental Preparation Books for Students with Disability The Institute for Pastoral Initiatives (IPI) of the University of Dayton is pleased to announce that the popular sacramental preparation series, ***Sacraments: Gifts for All***, now has student books available in both Spanish and English. This series, written by Pat Carter, covers the topics of Eucharist, reconciliation and confirmation, is geared for any disability and is intended to compliment, not replace a curriculum.

In addition, IPI has nine new student books, also available in both Spanish and English, on the The Apostles Creed, The Beatitudes, Blessings, New Life, Prayer, The Rosary, The Sacraments, The Saints and Who is Mary? These books can be used either in conjunction with a sacramental preparation program or for individual, supplemental instruction.

All IPI's books have numerous illustrations, limited text and an Imprimatur and Nihil obstat.

For further information and descriptions, go to <http://ipi.udayton.edu>, email Margaret Shufflebarger at margaret.shufflebarger@notes.udayton.edu, or call toll-free at 888-532-3389.



Coming Events

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

Access to Liturgical Spaces: Welcoming ALL to this Place, in partnership with the Georgetown Center for Liturgy/Envision Magazine, the NCCL and others. We will explore what constitutes an accessible liturgical space and how to achieve it.

Presenter: Robert Habiger, architect and liturgical design consultant, Albuquerque, NM.

Moderator: Dr. Anne Koester, Associate Director, The Georgetown Center for Liturgy and Editorial Director, EnvisionChurch.org, Washington, DC. Go to www.ncpd.org to download a flyer. [Click here to register](#).

Sunday, March 22, 2009, 2:30 p.m. EDT

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Annual Disability Mass, Principal celebrant and homilist: Cardinal Justin Rigali. Sponsored by the Respect Life Office, Department for Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities. Reception follows. Parishioners, family, friends and other interested persons invited. For invitation flyer [click here](#). Location: The Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul 18th St. & Benjamin Franklin Parkway Philadelphia, PA. To volunteer or ask questions, contact Janell Lavender jlavende@adphila.org or Sr. Kathleen Schipani SRCHIPA@adphila.org.

Thursday, April 16, 2009

NCPD's Giftedness Gala and online Silent Auction, honoring Dr. David Byers, Brian Stevens and Dolores Wilson.

[Click here](#) for more information.

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD)
and the Catholic Disability Foundation (CDF)

cordially invite you to attend the

2009 Giftedness Gala

Honoring

**Dr. David Byers
Brian Stevens
Dolores Wilson**

... for their Gifts of Service to Catholics with Disabilities

Thursday April 16

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Renaissance Hotel

9th and K Streets, NW

Washington, DC

(Public Parking Nearby - Metro Stop: Gallery Place)

**Reception, Awards Presentation & Silent Auction
in support of NCPD's Programs & Services**

Individual reservations at \$75.00 per person.

Celebrate with a "Circle of Friends" (10 reservations for \$500)

**Ticketing, program ads and online auction items at www.ncpd.org
202.529.2933 (V) 202.529.2934 (TTY)**

Monday, April 27 through Thursday, April 30, 2009

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership Annual Conference

NCPD will host a Liaison Group Session relating to catechesis and disability on Wednesday April 29, 2:00 - 3:30 PM. Join us!

Dearborn Michigan Hyatt, Archdiocese of Detroit.

To register or for additional information contact NCCL at www.nccl.org.

Friday, May 1, 2009, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

3rd Annual Autism Conference

General Topics: ASD and transition issues.

Please Note: Workshop with Sr. Kathleen Schipani and Lorie Brew

"ASD: Religious Education and Significant Life Events in a Community of Faith."

LaSalle University, Student Union Building, Philadelphia

Call 215-843-4528 or 609-518-1259 for more information.

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

Access to Tools in Addressing Suicide: Pastoral Supports and Prevention Strategies, NCPD Council on Mental Illness, NCCL and others. We will feature noted columnist, teacher and theologian Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI; Dr. Thomas Welch, a forensic psychiatrist with a Masters Degree in Pastoral Ministry who is a member of the NCPD Council on Mental Illness; and Claire Woodruff, Religious Education Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon. Claire serves as the Board of Directors Chair, Small Group Facilitator of the Suicide Bereavement Support Organization (SBS).

Thursday, July 2 through Sunday July 5, 2009

Celebrating 35 Years of Handicapped Encounter Christ

Interested in a Journey to the Heart of God?

Held in Mount Kisco, NY

Contact John L. Keck at Keck.j@worldnet.att.net 914-737-6889

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

Access in Liturgy: Making Liturgical Ministries More Accessible to People with Disabilities, in partnership with the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC), NCCL and others, will describe ways to make liturgical ministries more accessible to those with disabilities. Patrick Gorman and Karen Murray presenting. Lisa Tarker moderating.

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

Access in Catholic Education: Elementary Schools, in partnership with the USCCB Secretariat on Catholic Education, NCCL and others, with Marie Powell, Director, serving as moderator.

Sally Todd and Eileen Grams presenting. Marie Powell moderating.

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

Access in Catholic Education: High Schools, in partnership with the USCCB Secretariat on Catholic Education, NCCL and others. Karen Tichy and Doreen Engel presenting. Marie Powell moderating.

[Click here](#) for a downloadable calendar listing NCPD's entire webinar series.

We look forward to producing these 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 with questions.

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

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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, Dr. Nancy Thompson, edits NCPD E-NEWS. Please submit any items you want considered for inclusion to her at nthompson@ncpd.org , using the phrase “E-NEWS Submission” or “E-NEWS Response” in the subject line.

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