

**NCPD
E-NEWS
MAY 2009**



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

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Feature Story

NCPD's Giftedness Gala and Silent Auction was held Thursday, April 16, 2009 to honor pioneers Dr. David Byers and Dolores Wilson, and fundraiser/advocate Brian D. Stevens. We thank so many of you for joining us to honor these extraordinary individuals and their work for and with people with disabilities. Over 200 people were in attendance .



Dr. Byers was one of the original members of the Bishops' Committee on Disability, a contributor to the [1978 Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities](#). Dr. Byers served as executive director of the Committee on the Home Missions, the Committee on

Evangelization and the Committee on Science and Human Values during his 30-year tenure with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He also served as a founding Board Member of NCPD from 1982 to 1994.

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Brian D. 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). Brian has also received the "Compassion Award" from Cardinal Roger Mahoney of Los Angeles for his dedication and service on behalf of homeless people. In applying his CEO expertise to these humanitarian causes, Brian has provided invaluable assistance to the development and growth of NCPD.

Dolores Wilson previously was the Director of Disability Ministry for the Archdiocese of Washington, DC. She was a founding member of The Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute where she served and learned from the children there for 25 years. Dolores is the founder and director of "Bethlehem House" in Washington, DC which is a family setting where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are welcomed and loved. She is also the Eastern Provincial Coordinator of Faith and Light in the United States.



NCPD News and Tips

May 12 Webinar Change of Date

Due to scheduling conflicts this webinar, originally scheduled for May 12, 2009, has been moved to a **new date- Tues., October 20, 2009 1:00-2:30 p.m. Eastern Time Zone**



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

With: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, well known author and columnist; Claire Woodruff, family member survivor and bereavement support group specialist; Dr. Tom Welch, practicing forensic psychiatrist & founding member of the NCPD Council on Mental Illness.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Secular days of awareness can be used as a "hook" by we who are in disability ministry to help spread the Good News and the good news about mental health supports that are available in our parishes and dioceses. You can include prayers of the faithful at Mass, mention the topic in prayers used at staff inservice or meetings, use topics related to mental health for inservice, produce a flyer or poster for Church to make clear that we consider the topic of mental health important and one to be included in our ministries and discussions. All of these things can help diminish the stigma or embarrassment that is sometimes associated with mental illness, as well as expand awareness.

New Pamphlet Coming

Reaching Out to Those with Mental Illness <http://www.sentinel.org/node/9905>

Dr. Tom Welch and Dorothy Coughlin of NCPD's Council on Mental Illness were featured recently in an article in their diocesan newspaper. We are proud to feature them here.

Church Magazine Pullout on Disability Ministries

NCPD was consulted and asked to provide most of the articles for a 16 page pullout section for the next edition of *Church Magazine* that we hope you will find to be good resources. Be watching for it in the Summer 2009 issue.

NCPD Work in Progress

Members of both the Foundations in Disability Ministry Committee and the Council on Mental Illness are working very hard to meet projected deadlines and complete projects that, while very different, share some similar aspects. For example both of them will incorporate the use of a

one hour video that are in production as we speak. Some of you who have planned, arranged sites and people, filmed, transcribed audio, selected bits to be pasted together, created script content for the final product and worked with a producer and curriculum committee to put it all together so it is not only a fantastic teaching tool but can be used seamlessly with the format it was created to support, know what a monumental task it is. The gifts of the FDM Committee and MI Council are sacrificially being spent to support your work and theirs in dioceses across the U.S. NCPD is very blessed and appreciative to work in partnership with these individuals for the good of the Church and world. Let us keep one another in prayer.

Staff and Board Members on Pilgrimage

Jan Benton, Peg Kolm, along with NCPD Board Members Karen Murray and Debbie Adams are guests in support of the Knights of Malta Western Association Pilgrimage for People with Disabilities to Lourdes. They will return next week with wonderful stories to tell. Watch for more on our website and in the E-News.

Holy Cards Available for Servant of God, Dr. Jerome Lejeune

Dr. Jerome Lejeune has been named "Servant of God," and his cause for sainthood is now being postulated by the Abbey of Saint Wandrille in France.



Pray for Us

Dr. Lejeune (Montroque, France, June 26, 1926-April 3, 1994) was a French Catholic pro-life pediatrician and geneticist best known for his discovery of the link of diseases to chromosome abnormalities. He made his career specializing in the treatment of children with Down Syndrome before he attended a Copenhagen meeting of scientists where the discovery of the number of human chromosomes was discussed. Afterwards, it occurred to him to check the number of chromosomes in his Down Syndrome patients. After taking a skin biopsy from one of his patients, Dr. Lejeune, using borrowed equipment, discovered that children with Down Syndrome have an extra copy (called a trisomy) of chromosome 21. He spent the remainder of his life researching a cure for Down Syndrome.

The holy physician was a friend of Pope John Paul II. When His Holiness created the Pontifical Academy for Life, he appointed Dr. Lejeune its first president, just prior to the good doctor's death from cancer in Paris in 1994.

A limited number of prayer cards to obtain graces through the intercession of God's servant, Dr. Jerome Lejeune, have been made available to the Michael Fund by Leticia Velasquez. Single prayer cards are available for free, simply by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

The Michael Fund, 4371 Northern Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15146.

Prayer to Obtain Graces by the Intercession of God's Servant, Dr. Jerome Lejeune

God, who created man in your image and intended him to share your glory,

We thank you for having granted to your Church the gift of Professor Jerome Lejeune, a distinguished servant of life.

He knew how to place his immense intelligence and deep faith at the service of the defense of human life, especially unborn life, always seeking to treat and to cure. A passionate witness to truth and charity, he knew how to reconcile faith and reason in the sight of today's world.

By his intercession and according to your will, we ask you to grant us the graces we implore, praying that Doctor Jerome Lejeune will soon be recognized as one of your canonized saints. Amen.

As the canonization of Lejeune moves forward, testimonies of medically inexplicable cures sought by his intercession will be recorded, and holy cards with this prayer are available at this address:

Postulation de la cause de beatification
Et de canonization du Serviteur de Dieu Jerome Lejeune
Abbay Saint-Wandrille F-76490
Saint-Wandrille, France

<http://catholicdownsyndrome.blogspot.com/search/label/canonization>

Diocesan, Partner and Organizational News

Prevention not Execution

On Monday night July 6, National Alliance on Mental Illness, [NAMI](#) will present a special seminar at the 2009 Nami National Convention in San Francisco in conjunction with Murder Victims Families for Human Rights (MVFHR).



Families of victims, and of people who have been executed, will talk candidly about their experiences and articulate their reasons for opposing the death penalty for people with severe mental illnesses.

[NAMI](#) and MVFHR are working together to promote legislation to eliminate the death penalty as an option in cases involving individuals with severe mental illnesses and to advocate for better mental health treatment and services before criminal justice involvement occurs.

Catechetical Sunday, September 20, 2009

The theme for 2009 is *Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word*. Plan to include the topic in your catechist inservices and prayer. Resources will be available soon at www.nccl.org. Watch the NCPD website this summer at www.ncpd.org for disability specific resources that reflect the theme of Catechetical Sunday.

Catechetical Leader Magazine to Feature Disability Ministry

The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership will feature disability ministry in its September/October edition of *Catechetical Leader*. Be watching for this exciting upcoming issue.

Diocese of Pittsburgh Monthly Podcasts



Make Room For Us has been developed to assist parishes in opening their doors to people with disabilities and in inviting them to share their gifts and talents in witness to the love of God. Click the following link to be taken to their website for the podcasts, <http://www.diopitt.org/education/MakeRoomForUs.htm>.

The format of our podcast is simple. Each podcast has four segments:

The first segment: One Flock, One Shepherd, (*John 10:16*) - will be a discussion that will highlight sections of the 1978 Pastoral Statement of the United States Catholic Bishops on Person with Disabilities.

The second segment, "Be Opened" (*Mark 7:34*) - will emphasize ways we can meet contemporary challenges in disability ministry.

The third segment, Your Light Must Shine (*Matthew 5:16*) - will put the spotlight on various local and national agencies and organizations, who respond to the needs

of persons with disabilities.



The fourth segment, Many Gifts but the Same Spirit (*1 Cor. 12:4*) - will present a reflection about Spirituality and Disability. Sometimes the reflections would speak to where we find God in our lives as we live with a disability and sometimes they will speak to persons who minister to the disability community.

We hope our podcast will offer you encouragement and that you will join us every month as we explore ways that all of us can better respond to the Church's mission of making God's loving presence known in the world, acknowledging the barriers we face, while striving to remove them.

USCCB Job Openings

The USCCB is seeking qualified candidates for two positions within the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development: (1) Associate Director for Education and Outreach, ([click here to view opening](#)) and (2) Foreign Policy Advisor, ([click here to view opening](#)). Please help us pass the word and share the attached announcement with your membership and others involved in our work.

If you have questions, contact Andrew Davis at (202) 541-3123 or email adavis@usccb.org. Thank you.

Legislation and Advocacy

Community Choice Act Support by NCPD

NCPD, legislators and thousands of disability and social justice leaders have a long history of supporting the passage of this housing & disability services initiative (S. 683/H.R. 1670). We

once again have joined with other religious and religiously-affiliated organizations to write to Congress in strong support of the Community Choice Act to support this legislation which promotes independence with dignity and allows individuals who receive long-term services through Medicaid to have a choice in where, how and from whom they receive personal assistance. Encourage your legislators to support the Community Choice Act. These services, currently available to some under the Medicaid Waiver (the Katie Beckett Waiver), are of great benefit to those children and adults who receive them, and their families.

Possible Funding Sources for Catholic Schools and Parishes

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was recently signed into law. Funds are being distributed by federal agencies to states and communities throughout the country to build, repair and upgrade a wide range of facilities, systems and programs. The Department of Justice is taking this opportunity to remind state and local government officials, business owners and building professionals of their obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

This information has recently been updated, and can be read by visiting this link:

<http://www.disabilityinfo.gov/digov-public/public/DisplayPage.do?parentFolderId=219>

Also, check for an increase in your local Catholic school's proportionate consultation share from the additional funds that were received by states for public schools, which can be used in Catholic schools for students with disabilities.

Resources

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

For resources regarding Mental Health Awareness Month please review these links:

[NCPD Council on Mental Illness](#)

[National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\) Faith Net](#)

Family Perspectives Journal Spring 2009 Issue

"Ministry with Families of Families of Persons with Disabilities"

NACFLM is thrilled that NCPD and our colleagues who saw it enjoyed the recent issue of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) *Family Perspectives Journal* on "Ministry with Families of Persons with Disabilities" ([Click here](#) to view the journal issue). Several members of NCPD's disability ministry network and others authored wonderful articles that we wanted to make accessible to you. Normally only members of NACFLM receive the newsletter as a benefit of membership and it is not posted in full to their website. NACFLM's president, Dr. William Urbine, has granted permission for NCPD to post the issue on our webpage so you can gain access to it for this important issue related to disability ministry. We also provide this link to NACFLM's website www.nacflm.org and encourage you to accept the invitation they send, for you to explore the other family life resources on their site.

Coming Events

Wednesday May 27 - Saturday May 30, 2009

National Association for Lay Ministry

[NALM 2009 Annual Conference](#)

St. Paul, MN

A professional membership association for lay ministers in the Catholic Church. NALM's mission is to support, educate and advocate for lay ministers and promote the development of lay ministry.

Thursday July 2 - 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

Monday July 13 - Monday July 24, 2009

NAMI FaithNet

The Deaf Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia sponsors a two week summer day camp during the weeks of July 13-24, 2009. This is for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and use American Sign Language , ages 6-14. The cost of camp is \$75.00 (Scholarships are available). The camp includes religious education (Bible Stories), swimming, arts and crafts, drama, sports and daily afternoon cultural entertainment. *All children who are deaf/hard of hearing are welcome to attend.* The site of camp is at St. Charles Seminary on City Avenue. To register a child for camp call 215-587-3530 Voice; and/or 215-587-0510 TTY; and/or 866-892-6063 VP or e-mail pcpddeaf@adphila.org . The registration form is on the web at www.archdiocese-phl.org/evangelization/resplife/deafapos.htm

Wednesday 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.

Tuesday 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.

Tuesday October 20, 2009, 1:00-2:30 p.m. EDT

NCPD Webinar

Access to Tools in Addressing Suicide: Pastoral Supports and Prevention Strategies, in partnership with NCCL, NCYFM, NCPD Council on Mental Illness, NCOD, NAFIM and others, with Dr. Tom Welch as moderator/presenter/interviewer and Fr. Ron Rolheiser and Claire Woodruff presenting.

Tuesday 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.

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 items for consideration to her at nthompson@ncpd.org using the phrase "E-NEWS Submission" or "E-NEWS Response" in the subject line.

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