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Prenatal Diagnosis Support

Mother's Day is past and Father's Day will be celebrated this month so we decided to feature information about how parents cope with the news that a child they are carrying during a pregnancy is identified with disabilities or because of threatening health conditions. Too commonly pressure is placed on the parents to abort their child and tragically, many have followed this advice. The good news is that an ever growing number choose not to abort. Peer and other support networks have come to life that provide tools and encouragement for those who choose life.

One of these support organizations is Elizabeth Ministry. Go to our Prenatal Diagnosis webpage ([click here](#)) to find resources to support those receiving poor prenatal diagnosis (PPD).

A wonderful article by Julia Duin, the Religion Editor for the Washington Times, was printed May 10 about mothers choosing not to abort children with disabilities.

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/may/10/mothers-choosing-not-to-abort-children-with-disabilities/>

In it she describes "the growing network of mothers and medical professionals who are providing support groups, medical advice and Web sites for pregnant mothers of children with disabilities."

Ms. Duin also writes of her interview with Dr. Byron Calhoun, vice president of the obstetrics and gynecology department at West Virginia University in Charleston, as she discussed with him his experience of families in this circumstance. He told her that, "The



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only alternative parents are given is termination of pregnancy or they're told they are on their own."



"He is involved with the perinatal hospice movement, which supports parents of stillborn babies or children expected to die soon after birth. It offers nurses, chaplains, neonatologists, social workers, bereavement counselors and even a photographer to capture brief moments. All the typical

hospital needs, he explains, is a few extra rooms for these families."

"Time with the baby is extremely important to these moms," he says. "Families want a live birth, a baptism, a chance to hold the baby; to give as much love a child can have in their brief life."

"There are 74 such hospices across the country (plus two in Canada and four in Europe) listed on www.perinatalhospice.org ."

Several other helpful and informative links from the article include the following:

- A support group, Isaiah's Promise www.isaiahspromise.net .
- Go to www.benotafraid.net, a website that encourages mothers with dire in-utero diagnoses to keep their children. It gets about 3,500 visitors a month.
- Also, www.livingwithtrisomy13.org and www.prenatalpartnersforlife.org for photos, music and testimonies from parents who either regret their choice to abort or who brought their pregnancies to term.
- A nationwide listing of photographers who are willing to show up to a hospital at all hours to photograph stillborn or soon-to-die babies can be found at www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org.
- For parents who did abort www.postabortionhelp.org.

NCPD News and Tips



NCPD Launches New Website!

NCPD proudly launched its updated website (www.ncpd.org) on May 13, 2009 in a new and hopefully easier to use format. While every effort was made to make it a seamless transition, we hope you will notify us of any areas that we can improve upon. Please send your suggestions to bquinlan@ncpd.org. There is much more to come!

Mental Illness Workshops Presented throughout U.S.

NCPD Council on Mental Illness will be holding awareness workshops at three locations in July: Washington, DC (July 11); Chicago, IL (July 21); Portland, OR (July 24). Please [click here to view or download a brochure](#) with more details. Also, see the listings in our Upcoming Events Calendar below and on our website at www.ncpd.org. The major cost of the workshops are provided by a grant from a generous benefactor to the NCPD Council on Mental Illness, so only a nominal fee of \$10 will be asked to help cover the expense for a light continental breakfast, lunch and materials. Register online by [clicking here](#).

What will you learn?


The Mental Illness Workshops will introduce Catholic diocesan personnel, pastoral leaders, and parishioners to the issue of severe and persistent mental illness and will provide them with tools and resources to further the welcome, support, and involvement of individuals with mental illness and their families in the life of the faith community. Participants will be given specific practical, actionable ideas, ready and easy to use in their parishes.

Who will benefit from workshops?

All concerned about the welcome and support of parishioners with mental illnesses and their families, including priests, pastoral staff, deacons, seminarians, people with mental illness and their families, catechetical leaders, parish nurses, DREs, lay ecclesial ministers, youth

**NCPD Council on
Mental Illness
Awareness
Workshop:**

*Increasing Support and Hope
in Catholic Parish Communities*



- **Washington, DC**
July 11, 2009
- **Chicago, IL**
July 21, 2009
- **Portland, OR**
July 24, 2009

ministers, liturgists, disability advocates, ushers, care ministers, chaplains, social workers, healthcare workers, pastoral counselors.

For information about workshops [click here](#).

NCPD 2009 Webinar Series Addresses Range of Topics

Announcing NCPD Access Webinar, *Access in Liturgy: Making Liturgical Ministries More Accessible to People with Disabilities* on Wednesday, July 15, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT sponsored by the National Catholic Partnership on Disability and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC). This webinar will focus on inclusion of persons with disabilities in the liturgical life of the Church. Liturgical ministers should reflect the cultural, ethnic, and economic diversity of the parish. They should also reflect the spectrum of disabilities found in any large community.



Steve from the Archdiocese of Dubuque

Patrick Gorman, Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Madison, will look at the importance of parish leadership in assisting the faithful in identifying and sharing their God-given gifts with others as the parish offers thanks and praise to God and the impact of removing barriers to effective ministry. Karen Murray, MDiv, Director of the Office for Persons with Disabilities for the Archdiocese of Boston, will concentrate on the power of invitation, the removal of the first barrier to ensuring that a person's disability does not obscure the rich gifts given them by God, thus depriving the community of reaching its fullest potential. Lisa Tarker, Executive Director of the FDLC will serve as moderator for the webinar.

For more information or to register, contact NCPD

www.ncpd.org or FDLC www.fdlc.org.

NCPD Executive Director Activities

June finds Janice moving in and out of Washington, DC as she fulfills a variety of responsibilities working on projects in Detroit, MI; Belville, IL; San Antonio, TX. The stage of final editing and production of our two videos on disability ministry and support for people with mental illness will be brought to near completion. She will meet with leaders of the Victorious Missionaries, as a consultant. From there she will journey to the Spring Meeting of the USCCB where she will serve on the Bishop's Committee on Health Care and the Church and be a guest at two days of their public meetings.

Exceptional Parent Article

The May 2009 issue of Exceptional Parent magazine, has several wonderful articles. They are doing a spiritual support series and the May issue featured an article on creative resources and ministries in the Catholic Church that was requested of NCPD. Anne Masters, director of Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities for the Archdiocese of Newark, wrote the article with contributions from Janice Benton, our Executive Director, Dorothy Coughlin and Peg Kolm. Dorothy and Peg are diocesan disability ministry directors who also are associated with NCPD in a variety of ways and/or projects.

Hear Now Program for Individuals with Low Income

Catholic Charities USA provided information to us last week about the Starkey Hearing Foundation which has a program that serves low income individuals residing in the US to acquire hearing aids. Hearing aids are provided through an application process to those low income individuals permanently living in the US who have no other resource to acquire hearing aids. All applicants must meet the program's financial criteria, complete the application process and be approved for hearing aids. Verification of the applicant's financial situation and proof of a need for hearing aids are a part of the application process.



Starkey®
Hearing
Foundation
So the World May Hear

For further information, please call the Hear Now program at 1-800-328-8602 and ask for the Hear Now program. Visit the Foundation at www.sotheworldmayhear.org.



Mass Attendance for Hospitalized and Caregivers

When a person is hospitalized and not able to leave their bed to attend Mass, or if someone is a caregiver and not able to leave the bedside of their family member but wants to attend Mass it is possible for them to view a televised, pre-recorded Mass due to special circumstances. With this in mind, if the norms are respected that are provided by the USCCB, then the pre-recorded or live televised Mass is both valid and

licit, albeit it is not the ideal situation.

The complete guidelines can be found online at the U.S. bishops' conference Web site at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/current/tv.shtml>. This tip might come in handy if you are approached with this question and have not read the 1997 Guidelines for Televising the Liturgy, by the Committee on Divine Worship.

Diocesan/Partner News

CUSA

What is CUSA? CUSA is an organization that provides a way for people with chronic illness or disability to care for others like themselves through an online or postal service Christian support group. To see seven video clips from 47 seconds to 7 ½ minutes in length on different topics related to disability by Fr. Lawrence Jagdfeld, Administrator of CUSA, go to the website at www.cusan.org and click on CUSA Videos in the left column.

Stauros

Stauros has a new free online Journal: Hope and Suffering Notebook. See a preview at: http://www.stauros.org/ejournal_spring_09.htm

Stauros U.S.A. is a non-profit organization committed to helping people find meaning, hope and peace in the midst of suffering. Their mission is: to further education and dialogue on issues of suffering; to create opportunities for prayer, retreat, and reflection; to advocate with and give voice to persons who live with disabilities and suffering; and to build bridges of compassion among all who suffer, their caregivers, and the helping professions.

Boston Ordains a Priest who is Deaf

A priest from Boston who is deaf was recently ordained. He is one of only 11 priests nationwide who is deaf. Read the Boston Globe story by [clicking here](#).

Inclusion Tip from Marsha Rivas, Diocese of Toledo

If you would like a copy of a Tip Sheet by Marsha on the topic featured at the beginning of the E-News and in Julia Duin's recent article from the Washington Times, [click here](#) to get to "Prenatal Diagnoses and Pro-Life Choices", a handout you might want to use in your own ministry. Thank you, Marsha!

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors Awards

Pathways Awareness Foundation once again announces their request for proposals to parishes both in the Chicago area and at the national level, to expand their efforts of inclusion in the life of the worshipping community. To date they have donated over \$90,000 for these efforts. Two types of nominations can be submitted: ones from a group of children, ages 5-18 who wish to nominate their parish's inclusion efforts, ([click here](#)) and ones from parishes who will submit a description of their efforts and request a grant of \$1,000 to expand the work, ([click here](#)).

Share these links to nomination forms and the press release with your constituents and encourage them to apply.

Several programs in the NCPD network have been awarded in the past. For more information about the award and nominations [click here](#).



Pathways Awareness (www.pathwaysawareness.org) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about the benefit of early detection and early therapy for children with early motor delays. Pathways Awareness fosters inclusion in all aspects of the community. Through the Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors program, Pathways assists congregations of all denominations in welcoming persons with disabilities into all aspects of faith life. Visit www.inclusioninworship.org for more information.

Legislation

NCPD Board Chair submits comments on Draft NIH Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research

The National Institute for Health drafted guidelines for Human Stem Cell research and requested comments from the public. The drafting of these guidelines is in response to the March 9, 2009 Executive Order 13505 [Removing Barriers to Responsible Scientific Research](#)

[Involving Human Stem Cells](#) . The NCPD Chairman of the Board, Steve Mikochik, JD, submitted comments in opposition to promulgating these guidelines that can be found at [the NCPD website](#). The sentiments are summed up well in the final two sentences: "It is a monstrous thing for government to back research which fosters the belief that any class of human beings, and particularly those as defenseless as embryos with genetic conditions, are of value only when dead. On behalf of NCPD and the disabled Catholics it represents, I therefore urge NIH not to promulgate these guidelines."

Resources

Journal of Religion, Disability and Health

Check the following link for a [brochure](#) & to order a free copy ([click here](#)) of this professional journal that is edited by well known author and presenter, Bill Gaventa, M.Div., Associate Professor, Director, Community and Congregational Supports at The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, N.J.

Web Page: <http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter>

Coming Events

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

Saturday, July 11, 2009

NCPD Mental Illness Workshop: Washington, DC

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center

5001 Eastern Avenue

Hyattsville, MD 20782

Contact: Janice Benton

202.529.2933 (v); 202.529.2934 (tty)

jbenton@ncpd.org

Registration deadline: June 29

Register online at by [clicking here](#).

Monday July 13 - Monday July 24, 2009

Deaf Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Two week summer day camp 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, July 21, 2009

NCPD Mental Illness Workshop: Chicago, IL

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

St. John of the Cross Parish Center

5005 S. Wolf Rd.

Western Springs, IL 60558

Contact: Connie Rakitan

708.383.9276; cmr1551@comcast.net

Registration deadline: July 6

Register online at by [clicking here](#).

Friday, July 24, 2009

NCPD Mental Illness Workshop: Portland, OR

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

St. Pius X Parish Center

1280 NW Saltzman Road

Portland, OR 97229

Contact: Dorothy Coughlin

503.233.8399; dcoughlin@archdpdx.org

Registration deadline: July 6

Register online at by [clicking here](#).

Sunday July 26 - Friday July 31, 2009

Religious ASL Week 2009

De Sales Center, Brooklyn, MI

Go to the following link for a flyer ([click here](#)) and registration form ([click here](#)).

Read and share it with others who work in Deaf Ministry. RID CEUs are available.

Saturday, August 1, 2009

Reaching People with Autism and Other Communication Disorders

2009 Annual NAFIM Meeting and Workshop

9 a.m.-5 p.m.; \$30.00 registration (overnight accommodations available)

Cleveland, OH

[Click here](#) for a flyer with registration form.

Click <http://www.nafim.org/conference.php?section=events&cat=conference>

for online information.

Call 800.736.1280 for information and accommodations.

Tuesday September 29 - Thursday October 1, 2009

Pathways to Promise: Interfaith Ministries & Mental Illness, 2009 National Summit

Companions on the Road to Recovery from Mental Illness

Pathways for the 21st Century

Belleville, IL

<http://www.pathways2promise.org/>

For color brochure, [click here](#), for black and white brochure [click here](#).

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.

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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