

**NCPD
E-NEWS
AUGUST 2009**



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

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In Memoriam of Eunice Kennedy Shriver

Editor's note: With this morning's sad news of the death of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a great Catholic woman and friend of people with disabilities, we are able to share the following thoughts. NCPD joins with so many others to express our gratitude to God for the life of this extraordinary woman. Our prayers and condolences to Eunice Shriver's husband, Sargent Shriver, her five children and their spouses, and nineteen grandchildren.

A letter was sent this morning to people involved with the Special Olympics by the organization's Chairman and CEO, Timothy P. Shriver, with permission to share its contents with others to help communicate the news of his mother's death early this morning, August 11, 2009, at the age of 88.

Though at the end her body had become weak, her heart was strong and it was abundantly full. It was overflowing with faith in God's will. It was replete with a sense of contentment about the past and a deep hope for the future. It was full of love and gratitude for those to whom she had dedicated her life's work and who had in return given her life the gifts of clarity, aspiration and friendship.

Her heart was full indeed of faith, hope and love. She was very much at peace.

...

She believed that people with intellectual disabilities could - individually and collectively - achieve more than anyone thought possible. This much she knew with unbridled faith and certainty. And this faith in turn gave her hope that their future might be radically different.

Mrs. Shriver's advocacy and work for people with disabilities extended far past the Special Olympics. As her daughter, Maria Shriver Schwarzenegger, well known journalist and

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First Lady of California has said, "her mother's fingerprints could be found" all over every major piece of legislation, forward movement and advocacy in behalf of establishing rights and room for people with disabilities since the 1960's. The Rose Kennedy Curriculum that supports inclusion in religious education programming of parishioners with intellectual disabilities, and now in modified form for others such as those with Autism, is but one of those elements that we are so familiar with and use. Teresa of Calcutta in a famous quote said "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth, but yours." Eunice Shriver can be said to have brought the presence of Christ to others through her good works and service.

Go to www.eunicekennedyshriver.org to learn more about her life and work, to read and leave notes of condolence to the family.

Mental Illness Awareness Workshops: *Increasing Support and Hope in Catholic Parish Communities*

In July over 150 people participated in three one-day workshops held in Washington, DC; Chicago, IL; and Portland, OR, created and sponsored by the NCPD Council on Mental Illness. They were conducted as test sites in different geographical settings with three different site-teams to assess the carefully prepared workshop materials and video, *Welcomed and Valued*, in anticipation of preparing leaders through an in-depth three-day training to present the one-day awareness workshop across the United States. Future e-news will report on opportunities for you to attend this workshop.

In addition to participants and team members responding with evaluations, each site was attended by Janice Benton, Executive Director of NCPD, and two other professional evaluators who were observing and evaluating from the specific perspective of their professional group, i.e. youth ministry, catechetics, pastoral ministry, and others. Better than 90% of participants completed their evaluations at the end of the day.

We were thrilled with the enthusiastic response of participants. Some comments from the evaluations follow.

The 27 minute DVD; *Welcomed and Valued* premiered as part of the workshop series:

- Profound and practical!
- Engaging video.
- Excellent-We can learn so much from listening to people with mental illnesses.
- The "personal story" touch raises understanding and compassion.
- Powerful and well produced.

- A very good "primer" and beginning...a way to begin a conversation and explore the topic at the parish level.
- Very powerful, personal witnesses gives the message that touches us at the human level and the less clinical "feel" opens it to all of us.
- I can use this for ministries in many areas.
- I will be able to use this in the future in my congregation. Thank you!
- Very good! I am glad I will get a copy of it for my office.
- Excellent video. Consider advertising it and offering it to all parishes.

Note: Watch the September E-News for information on purchasing the video and resource binder.

The discussions, scenarios and handouts:

- The large group discussions that followed session input was very beneficial and educational.
- Very helpful to have large and small group discussions. I learned a lot from other people attending.
- Scenarios were very interesting and realistic.
- Wonderful exercises.
- Very useful-engaging!
- Came up with practical ideas. Good activity-awareness.
- Good brainstorming process.
- One of the most helpful parts is all the handout materials that will help me duplicate something similar in my parish.
- Most helpful to me were the networking, materials (especially in the folder) and gaining the Catholic Perspective.

Each participant received a copy of the video as well as an accompanying 94-page resource binder entitled *Welcomed and Valued: Building Faith Communities of Support and Hope with People with Mental Illness and Their Families*.

NCPD News and Tips

MI Council and the NCPD Initiative Supporting Persons with Mental Illness:

In a second tier of this outreach is a three-day advanced training September 26-28, 2009 at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL, for twenty-five selected individuals. [Click here](#) to learn more about the initiative. If you are a leader who would like to apply for this program, [click](#) to read about the selection process and download the application.

I Gave 30:

We encourage every E-News subscriber to support NCPD through an online donation to our "I Gave 30" Campaign. NCPD continues to honor the 30th anniversary of the *Pastoral Statement* by reaching out to a new generation of clergy, families, diocesan directors, pastoral staff and volunteers. NCPD works for you and your interests with the U.S. Catholic Bishops, national and state Catholic conferences, (arch) dioceses and parishes. We especially need funds to translate materials into Spanish, create more resources to catechize students with autism, plan for next year's webinar series and to respond to requests for assistance. [Click here](#) to make an online donation now.



New NCPD Web Link "Español"



Check out the newest featured button on the NCPD homepage at www.ncpd.org : [Español](#). You will find links to items on our website that have been translated to Spanish, as well as links to Spanish language resources for disability ministry that we have recommended. Keep checking back as we continue the process of translating resources. Also, don't forget to check back and watch the website for updates and continued expansion.

Two new Webinars in October in two new and different time slots!!!

Check the Webinar [webpage](#) for registration links after August 17 for our October 13 and October 20 internet seminars:



Tuesday, Oct. 13, 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET, ***Access in Catholic Education: Elementary Schools*** with Sally Todd, Associate Superintendent, Diocese of Orange, CA, Catholic Schools; Eileen Grams, Inclusion Specialist, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Elementary School, Potomac, MD; and Marie Powell, Executive Director, USCCB Secretariat of

Catholic Education.

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET, ***Access to Tools in Addressing Suicide: Pastoral Supports and Prevention Strategies*** with Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, well known author and columnist, President of Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, TX; Claire Woodruff, Archdiocese of Portland, OR, Religious Education Coordinator, Suicide Bereavement Support Organization (SBS) Board of Directors Chair and Small Group Facilitator, family member survivor of suicide; and Dr. Thomas Welch, MD, adult and forensic psychiatrist in private practice in Portland, OR, NCPD Council on Mental Illness member.



Make sure your Arch/Diocesan Affiliate Membership for 2009-2010 is in place to assure the free participation of your members seeking resources for disability ministry. [Click here](#) to check if your diocese is an affiliate member.

Editors note--

In the July NCPD E-News I failed to give correct credit to The Washington Group Special Care Planning Team for an activity that was highlighted. Please read the following from Chris Desmarais. My apologies to her and to The Washington Group Special Care Planning Team who can be contacted at 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 800, Fairfax, VA 22030.



"I was happy to read your comments in the most recent NCPD newsletter, however, I must correct a few things. [Neither] Paul VI Catholic High School nor I partnered with Exceptional Parent. The Paul VI Catholic High School Options Program was the recipient of an award presented by Exceptional Parent. I accepted the award on behalf of PVI Options. Additionally, I cannot take any credit for the organization of the day--it was all The Washington Group Special Care Team, along with Exceptional Parent. The day, as you described was terrific and ALL due to The Washington Group Special Care Team, along with Exceptional Parent Magazine."

Diocesan, Partner and Organizational News and Notes



Archdiocese of Philadelphia Fall Inservice on Alzheimer's Disease

The Archdiocesan Department of Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities presents a workshop to increase knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer's disease. With someone developing this disease every 70 seconds and with as many as 5.3 million people living with the disease in the United States, they are providing parishes with resources to support a greater understanding of the impact of Alzheimer's and identify the role of the faith community in

meeting the spiritual needs of persons with the disease, their families and caregivers. [Check this link](#) for more information.

STAUROS Trip to the Holy Land

Access to the Land of the Bible is a non-academic program of Bible study made accessible to persons living with disabilities. Stauros is launching a campaign to recruit 25 leaders in the disability "no limits" movement who have disability themselves and desire to attend a fantastic study tour of the Holy Land with one of the world's foremost experts on the bible and New Testament: Fr Don Senior, the current President of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. For more information go to <http://www.stauros.org/nexttrip.html> or [click this link](#).



Diocese of Toledo Goes "Facebook"!!!

News flash! Marsha Rivas made a Facebook Page for Equal Access Ministry!! Click on either of the pictures next to this paragraph, or when you are on Facebook, search for Equal Access Ministry to find it. (Only members of Facebook will be able to view the page.) She posted the Inclusion Tip there as well as other info to share.

(Editor's note -- Great going, Marsha. You continue to challenge us all.)



Disability Ministry Tip Sheet:

Tips for First Time Teachers "As community inclusion trickles down into all classrooms, every teacher will, at some time, be a first-time teacher of a student with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD). Fear is often the initial reaction. The following tips from experienced teachers and parish ministry consultants" can be found at [this link](#).

Resources

Topics for Inservices

NCPD webinar website pages and replay links provide a goldmine of resources for your fall inservices. Check out our website's links to webinar replays, Spanish language resources, handouts to download, PowerPoints to download and use, and too many other things to try and list them here. Go to www.ncpd.org and browse to your heart's delight!

Webinar on Grief Support



The Hospice Foundation of America has extended registration to their live, online webinar on September 15: [Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities through Illness, Grief, and Loss](#), from 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET. We are happy to bring it to your attention. You can check their website at www.hospicefoundation.org for other notices and products.

Legislation

Community Choice Act

Passage of the Community Choice Act (S. 683/H.R. 1670), 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, is the long-awaited next step forward in the fight for the civil rights of people with disabilities. NCPD, a long-time proponent and advocate in behalf of this legislation, is in the process of development with the USCCB, Catholic Charities USA, and the Catholic Health Association, of a letter that will be signed and sent to Congress in support of its passage.

NCPD is also a founding member of the Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition (IDAC) which is a part of the Interfaith Initiative of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the host organization for IDAC that is convened by Ginny Thornburgh, the Interfaith Initiative's Director. IDAC announced its support for the Community Choice Act on Monday, June 22, 2009, the 10th anniversary of the landmark Olmstead Supreme Court decision, *Olmstead v. L.C.*, which stated that the unnecessary institutionalization of individuals with disabilities constituted discrimination and violated the Americans with Disabilities Act. NCPD was among the 22 signers of IDAC's announcement and of the written sign-on letter that was sent to members of Congress urging them to support the legislation. According to the letter, the coalition feels bias toward institutional placements is in conflict with the shared values of the coalition's faiths, and by allowing older adults and people with disabilities to receive care in their homes and communities, this legislation ensures that they can remain active participants in their families, neighborhoods and religious communities.

Abortion Being Advanced-- We Need to Stop It

Congress is advancing **health care reform** legislation that includes taxpayer funding of abortion. Already Congress has voted to use taxpayers' money to fund **elective abortions** in the District of Columbia, thus, violating our right to choose not to be complicit in the evil of abortion.^[i] Furthermore, it is statistically documented that the unborn with disabilities are at much greater risk of never being allowed to be born. It is critical that any health care reform legislation reflects longstanding policies which reject abortion funding and mandates, and which provide for conscience protections. Furthermore, such legislation should not promote policies that foster the **hastening of**

death, especially for the elderly and those with disabilities. Please let your voice be heard by accessing the alert at <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/health1.shtml>.

Coming Events

Tuesday, September 15, 2009, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

Hospice Foundation of America

Webinar: "Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities Through Illness, Grief and Loss"

Check this link to register: [Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities through Illness, Grief, and Loss](#).

Saturday, September 26, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ET

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities

Fall 2009 Contact Meeting

"Pastoral Care for Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease"

Check [this link](#) for more information.

Saturday, September 26 - Monday September 29, 2009

Welcomed and Valued: Three day Advanced Training in Mental Illness

Sponsored by the NCPD Council on Mental Illness

Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL

Information available by [clicking here](#).

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, NFCYM, 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, December 1 - Thursday December 10, 2009

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - Xavier Society for the Blind

Fr. John Sheehan will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, designed specifically for people who are blind or visually impaired. For more details, contact the Xavier Society by Email at

Xaviersocietyfortheblind@Yahoo.com or call (212) 473-7800.

Registration deadline is October 1, 2009.

Tuesday, August 17, 2010 - Saturday, August 28, 2010

STAUROS "Access to the Land of the Bible"

Holy Land Pilgrimage for people with physical disabilities, especially those actively engaged in parish Bible Study or ministry who wish to deepen their understanding of the Bible. Open to spouses, family members, friends, or to any persons who wish to serve as personal care attendants. [Click here](#) for more information.

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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NCPD
415 Michigan Ave. NE
Suite 95
Washington, DC 20017
202-529-2933
202-529-2934 TTY
202-529-4678 Fax



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