



NCPD

NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARTNERSHIP ON DISABILITY

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Feast of Corpus Christi, 2019

Your Excellency,

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) continues its work to implement the directives set forth by the Bishops in your 1978 *Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities (Pastoral Statement)*. As you know, we lead the Church's national ministry – for persons with disabilities to be nurtured throughout our U.S. Catholic Church. We are all one through the body of Christ, yet many faith-filled Catholics with disabilities do not feel that they belong. Many continue to have a *Longing for Belonging*.

This year we celebrate forty years of bringing the *Pastoral Statement* to life. We also are transitioning to the next phase of NCPD's rich history under new leadership as our long-time executive director, Janice Benton, prepares for her retirement.

Support for NCPD from U.S. (arch)dioceses is particularly critical right now. As you may know, a significant portion of our budget comes from contributions (we call affiliate sponsorships) from U.S. (arch)dioceses. As described below, **we need your support and ask for your consideration to:**

- 1) become an Affiliate sponsor of NCPD;
- 2) participate in our celebration dinner this Fall; and
- 3) distribute throughout your (arch)diocese NCPD's newest resource (enclosed summary brochure) highlighting your *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities, Revised Edition (Guidelines)*.

To ensure that the vision of the *Pastoral Statement* continues to be implemented, and that NCPD remains a strong and viable force in achieving its mission during this transition to a new executive director **we ask you to consider making an Affiliate contribution of \$750 to NCPD**, which extends from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Your support sustains our mission. Affiliate benefits for 2019-2020 include the following:

- Free access to NCPD products and online resources
- Free access to online streaming for live and archived events
- Professional consultation at discounted rate and co-hosting of regional meetings
- (Arch)diocesan disability ministry onsite reviews at discounted rate
- Keynote presentations, workshops and professional training at discounted rate
- Discounted tickets (for up to 2 persons) to attend the November 8, 2019 dinner celebrating the anniversary of the *Pastoral Statement* and honoring Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson

Please join us for the celebration dinner on Friday evening November 8, 2019 at the Fr. Rosensteel Council No. 2169 Hall in Silver Spring, Maryland to celebrate the 40th Anniversary year of the issuance of the *Pastoral Statement*, award Carl Anderson and the Knights of Columbus for their long service to our ministry, recognize Janice Benton for her extraordinary contributions over the last 40 years along with other long-time ministry pioneers, and welcome our new executive director. **Please hold the date;** an invitation and RSVP card fill follow.

Enclosed are details of two additional events planned for **November 9-10**. We hope that you will attend any of the events that your schedule allows and ask that you also designate individuals from your (arch)diocese to attend. We are pleased to offer the symposium and leadership networking free of charge. These gatherings are an excellent opportunity for individuals working in your (arch)diocese to gain insights into the current trends in disability ministry.

The enclosed ***We All Belong*** flyer introducing the ***Guidelines*** to clergy, parish leaders, and families is bilingual and is orderable at the following website: www.ncpd.org/we-all-belong. **We ask that you encourage your staff to provide these flyers to parishes.**

NCPD continues to strive to serve your (arch)diocesan needs in ministering to and with persons with disabilities who are members of your flock. We trust that our resources and leadership help advance this important ministry. Please encourage your staff to visit our newly-revised website or call on NCPD for assistance in serving the Catholics with disabilities and their families within your (arch)diocese.

Attached please find for your convenience, a return envelope and form in which to remit your **Affiliate contribution of \$750, or any amount that your budget will allow**. Your support will help ensure that each one of the 15,000,000 U.S. Catholics with disabilities can live as a full and active member of Christ's Body, the Church. This is especially poignant with the recent celebration of the Feast of the Body and Blood of our loving Lord.

We thank you for your prayers and support which help us ensure that Catholics with disabilities can partake in the special graces of the Holy Eucharist, which connect us all as members of the Body.

In Christ's peace,

Marsha Rivas
Chair, NCPD

Patrick Romzek
Chair, Catholic Disability Foundation

