

February 2010 Parish Advocate E News

Dear Parish Advocates,

February is
National Eating Disorders Awareness Week
National American Heart Month
Low Vision Awareness Month
National Burn Awareness Week

Prayers of the Faithful . . .

That we may be grateful for the gifts and contributions people with disabilities share with our church and civic community, we pray . . .

For people who blind and cannot see, and for those who can see but are blind to people around them, we pray . . .

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 6, 2010 -Catholic Social Teaching – *A Day of Learning, Reflection and Transformation*, registration at 8 am, seminar 9 am to 4 pm at the **Pastoral Center, Richmond**. Cost is \$15 for a continental breakfast, lunch and materials. For more information and to register online, please see [attached flyer](#).

The seminar presentations include the following: **What is Catholic Social Teaching (CST) -the 3 principles, Human Dignity, Solidarity, and Subsidiarity; CST & Charity; What Specifically Does CST Tell Us; and CST – What should I and must I do.**

The presenters are **Robert Nalewajek** – President, Centesimus Annus Pro Pontific (CAPP) – USA, and a Director of the Foundation at the Vatican and **Dr. Karen Wright** – Director of The Catholic University of America – CAPP CST Certificate Program.

CAPP is a lay-led, pontifical foundation established by Pope John Paul II that is headquartered at the Vatican. CAPP is the vehicle for lay education and evangelization of Catholic Social Doctrine. What will be presented is true to the teaching of the magisterium and can reliably be represented as true teaching of the Church.

Wednesdays, 6:30pm to 8:30 pm, Starting February 24th at McGuire Veterans Hospital Room E121, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Peer-to-Peer.

Join a free course of Veterans helping Veterans recover from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental illnesses. [Click to see NAMI Peer to Peer Flyer](#) for more information.

Sunday, April 18th, 2010 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School Auditorium, 5345 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach. (Across from Haynes Furniture Store) A family celebration of Interfaith WORSHIP, FOOD and FELLOWSHIP

Come participate in FIN's first family event for people with disabilities, their families and friends. There will be a short, child friendly, interfaith worship service followed by a time to meet new friends, have some good food and browse through a large selection of faith based and community related disability materials. Hope to see you there.

-This FIN event is FREE and open to all

For more information and to RSVP email Karen Jackson at faithinclusionnetwork@gmail.com

Or call 423-4027

NCPD WEBINAR SERIES-2010 Internet Seminars to Support your Ministry Needs

Next Webinar: "Access in Catholic Education, Part II: High Schools on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, from 3-4:00 p.m. EDT.

Catholic schools more perfectly reflect the single flock envisioned by Jesus, our Shepherd, when they welcome and integrate students with disabilities into the total life of the school. In this NCPD webinar, Catholic educators with significant experience at both the school and diocesan levels will share strategies and resources that enable Catholic schools to become successful, inclusive communities. To register, click here. For downloadable PDF flyer, [click here](#). For more information visit the NCPD webinar page at <http://www.ncpd.org/webinars>.

To access a webinar, you must have high speed internet service. Registration for any of the webinars is free for parishioners of the Diocese of Richmond since we are affiliate members of the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD). Registration for a webinar is open about a month prior to the respective

webinar. To register for a webinar go to www.NCPD.org. The webinars will also be shown at the Pastoral Center. To attend, contact Wendy Henderson at 804 622-5125 or whenderson@richmonddiocese.org.

For review of the past webinars, go to www.NCPD.org and click on webinars, then click on the topics of the webinars you would like to view.

Upcoming Webinars:

May 2010 Advanced Considerations on Children and Youth with Mental Illness Date, Moderator/Speakers: (TBA)

July/August 2010 Advanced Considerations on Catechesis and Children/Youth with Disabilities Date, Moderator/Speakers: (TBA)

October 2010 Advanced Considerations on threats to the Life of People with Disabilities, Part I: Pre-Natal Diagnosis Date, Moderator/Speakers: (TBA)

NCPD 2010 Calendar Download

Click here for a downloadable version of NCPD's 2010 calendar including webinar schedule.

Year of the Priest

Year for Priests: Fr. Mike Joly

By Sheila Talley, Parish Advocate, Church of the Redeemer, Richmond



Bishop Francis DiIorenzo installed Father Mike Joly as pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Yorktown, Virginia on Sunday, November 8 2009. Fr. Mike has enjoyed three and a half years in Campus Ministry at the College of William and Mary and serves various needs as director of retreats, parish missions, youth rallies and conferences. Fr. Mike also happens to be totally blind and has been since he was five years old.

Father Joly says his story is not about success, but about hope. "Hope is something divine," he said in an interview with the New York Times after he was ordained 15 years ago. "The only thing I am to anyone who's interested in listening is a committed



sign of hope. Look at the power of hope." Fr. Mike said. At his ordination, he prayed from a sacramentary, a book used by priest during Mass, that he created with a computer and a Braille printer. Joly had set out to reproduce some of the essential works for use in Catholic worship in Braille, for himself and other blind priests. The priests he knows of became blind after they were already ordained.

Father Mike grew up in Cumberland, Rhode Island, one of ten children reared by Armand Joly, his father, a police officer and salesman. Michael developed a brain tumor at age five and the surgery to remove the growth left him blind.

His sister Nancy McNally says, "Our father basically gave Mike a choice between feeling sorry for himself or doing something with his life." ([continued](#))

Resources

Inclusion Tip

Marsha Rivas, of the Diocese of Toledo's Equal Access Ministry provides us with February's Inclusion Tip, *Postsecondary Education for Students with IDD*. Thank you for realizing the potential for all to reach for the stars! [Click here](#) for the tip sheet.

Catechetical and outreach resources for children and catechists on Haiti

Our Sunday Visitor February/Lent 2010 edition of Teaching Catholic Kids, available online ([click here](#)).

Find an Assistive Technology Resource Center in Your State

[State Assistive Technology \(AT\) Act programs](#) work to improve access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities through comprehensive statewide programs. These programs include device loans, AT reuse, device demonstrations and state financing activities. For examples of how some states have helped people with disabilities get assistive technology visit the Web site of the [Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs](#) (ATAP). For a listing of AT manufacturers and distributors in your state visit [ABLEDATA](#).

For more information about assistive technology and its role in increasing the independence of people with disabilities visit Disability.gov's [Technology](#) section.

Program Meetings:

Outreach In Love, a Catholic based religious education program designed for the intellectually and/or physically disabled. It is open to all faiths and all ages. The younger group meets on Sunday mornings and the older group on Wednesday evenings at St. Edward's Church in Richmond. **Respite in Love Program.** For information on both programs call Joan Congable at 804 501-0022 (home), 804 387-1756 cell or email at outreachinlove@yahoo.com

Living in Holland Support Group for families with children with disabilities meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament, Norfolk. All families, regardless of their church affiliation, who have children with disabilities, are invited. Rosemary Hughes-Cook, Professor at Regent University, author and parent of a special needs child will be the quest speaker. For more information on this, please contact Karen Jackson at DaCapomusic@cox.net or 757 423-4027.

Young Life Capernaum, a program for young people with intellectual and physical disabilities meets on the 4th Monday of every month at Holy Family Church in Virginia Beach. For more information, contact Sue Stefonowich via email - parishadvocate@gmail.com.

Other:

A L'Arche home is in the formation stages for the Richmond/Glen Allen area. If you would like to be on their email list for information, please contact, Kathy Maybee 804 965-1990 or colin23@msn.com; Marybeth Meacham 804 273-9533/ marybethmeacham@me.com, Cheryl Emory 804 [747-4486](tel:747-4486)/cherylememory@comcast.net. L'Arche communities are caring homes where persons with and without disabilities live with comfort, spirituality, and respect.

Thank you on behalf of all those persons with disabilities whose spiritual lives have been enriched through your efforts during this past year.

Nita Grignol
Office for and with Persons with Disabilities
7800 Carousel Lane,
Richmond, Virginia 23294.
804 622-5260
ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org

www.richmonddiocese.org/disabilities/index.htm