

December 2009 Parish Advocate E News Update

Dear Parish Advocates,

December is

December is World AIDS Day (December 1st)

United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3rd)

Prayers of the Faithful . . .

To our brothers, sisters and all families affected with HIV/AIDS, that we provide support, compassion and love, we pray . . .

That all people with disabilities, their families and care-providers, know God's tender love and the support of a welcoming community, we pray

NEWS

Bishops Call Vote a Grave Mistake and Serious Blow to Genuine Reform Say the Senate Should Not Support Bill in its Current Form Hope That House Provisions on Abortion Funding Prevail

To read the USCCB press release click on the link below. The press release was issued in response to the U.S. Senate's vote to table the Nelson-Hatch-Casey amendment. Among the 54 Senators who voted in favor of this motion – and, thus, against retaining existing abortion funding restrictions – were Senator Jim Webb and Senator Mark Warner of Virginia. You are encouraged to contact Senator Webb and Senator Warner immediately to express your disappointment. To Contact Senator Webb, call (202) 224-4024; to contact Senator Warner, call (202) 224-2023.

<http://capwiz.com/vacatholic/issues/alert/?alertid=14446526>

Upcoming Events

January 17 thru 22, 2010: Diocesan Respect Life Week- More information on Respect Life Activities and Disabilities will follow.

January 22, 2010 37th Annual March for Life, Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Colleen Barringer at 804 545-5976.

March 6, 2010: 8:30 to 4:00pm Catholic Social Teaching Seminar, Pastoral Center, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 2329. Watch for more information in the new year.

Mental Illness Workshop Presentation by NCPD to be held at the Pastoral Center in Richmond. **Time and Date to be announced.** Recently the NCPD Council on Mental Illness launched a Nationwide Initiative to train Catholic Clergy, Parish staff, and others such as the Disability Parish Advocates in meeting the spiritual and pastoral needs of persons with mental illness.

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 Nita Grignol at 804 622-5260 or ngrignol@ichmond-diocese.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.

Legislation/Advocacy Issues

Recently **Jeff Caruso**, Director of the Virginian Catholic Conference (VCC) met with Nita Grignol, Director of the Ministry for and with Persons with Disabilities.

Also included in the meeting were the **Director Alliance for Mental Illness - (VAMI- Virginia)**, **Mira Singer** and the **Director of the Arc of Virginia, Jamie Trosclair-Livan**. The purpose of the meeting was to update the VCC on issues relating to some of Virginia's most vulnerable citizens and to share VAMI's and The Arc's legislative agendas for the upcoming 2010 General Assembly Session.

Resources

NCPD Mental Illness Resources

The NCPD *Welcomed and Valued* DVD and Resource Binder are available for purchase by [clicking here](#). Scroll down to the bottom of the page. The DVD features in depth looks at people with mental illness and how they participate in parish life. (27 minute open captioned DVD. Discussion guide included.)

In addition, NCPD now has a wonderful DVD, **Voices of Faith** that shows individuals with various disabilities talking about what their faith means to them. This DVD is part of the Diocese of Richmond's Disability Resource Lending Library. If you would like to borrow, please contact Nita at ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org.

Inclusion Tip

Here is another great tip from Marsha Rivas and the Diocese of Toledo: a timely piece on "Happy Kids for Christmas"! ([click here to download pdf](#)) To learn more about disability ministry in Toledo visit Equal Access Ministry webpage.

FYI

Year of the Priest

Pope Benedict XVI has declared a "**Year for Priests**" beginning with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19, 2009. The year will conclude in Rome with an international gathering of priests with the Holy Father on June 19, 2010. The **National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD)** is highlighting stories of the positive impact that people with disabilities have made on priestly vocations, as well as stories about priests with disabilities who serve the Church with their gifts.

Our Parish Advocate, **Sheila Talley**, Church of the Redeemer, Richmond submitted **Father Wayne Ball's story**. To read his story, click on this link, <http://www.ncpd.org/views-news-policy/stories/yearofpriest>.

A Place for All: Faith and Community for Persons with Disabilities

The ABC network has a new documentary, *A Place for All* that is being aired throughout the country. The documentary offers profiles of courageous individuals and families who have awakened their faith communities to the contributions of people with special needs. To see a listing of times and places click on <http://divacommunications.com/aplace-schedule>

It will be aired in Virginia as follows:

Harrisonburg, WHSV. December 13, 2009, 12:30 am.

Roanoke, WSET, January 17, 2010, 6 am.

To watch the trailer go to: <http://www.divacommunications.com/aplace>

To see a listing of where this is being shown, go to:

<http://divacommunications.com/aplace-schedule>

Program Meetings

Outreach In Love, a Catholic based religious education program designed for the intellectually and/or physically disabled meets, on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings at St. Edward the Confessor, Richmond. It is open to all faiths and all ages. . There is also a new **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. 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 the first 3 Mondays of the month at Holy Family Church in Virginia Beach. For more information, contact Sue Stefonowich via email at parishadvocate@gmail.com.

Parish Advocates

Thank you to all the Parish Advocates who have sent in their bios for our Parish Advocate Directory. Reminder: If you have not sent your bio in, it is not too late. A short paragraph about your background and interests is acceptable. Also please mention your accomplishments as the Disability Parish Advocate. Please try to have

it to us by January 1, 2010. Don't be modest! Please send it to Nita Grignol, at ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org, or 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, Va 23294 or fax 804 358-9159 Thank you. All Parish Advocates will get a copy to use as a resource.

Congratulations and thank you Parish Advocates for what you are doing for individuals with disabilities.

Phyllis May, Parish Advocate for Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Richmond recently worked with her church's Pastoral Care Ministry to sponsor a **Caregiver Appreciation Celebration**. Sixteen parishioners who are caregivers for family and friends were honored for their commitment, compassion, strength and uniqueness. The highlights of the program were an anointing by Monsignor Walter Barrett, scripture and prayer, musical selections, a very special hand massage, the presentation of a framed tribute and a bag of special treats and inspirational messages. In addition, Mrs. Marian Dolliver from Senior Connections spoke with the caregivers about services available to provide support and advice. The afternoon ended with a special box lunch and a charge to Go Forth and continue their care giving knowing God will provide what is needed.

Other

Assisi House which will be located on the property of the Church of the Ascension, Virginia Beach is in the planning stages. For information on this go to www.assisihouse.org. Assisi House will be a group home for 8 individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities who need 24/7 supervised care.

To learn more about Assisi House, click here

http://www.richmonddiocese.org/disabilities/documents/Assisi_House.pdf

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, Marybeth Meacham 804 273-9533/marybethmeacham@me.com, Cheryl Emory 804 [747-4486](tel:747-4486)/cherylemory@comcast.net. L'Arche communities are caring homes where persons with and without disabilities live with comfort, spirituality, and respect. To learn more about the **L'Arche Home**, see the Catholic Virginian article <http://www.catholicvirginian.org/archive/2008/2008vol84iss4/pages/article2.html>

Wishing you a holy Advent, a very merry Christmas Season and a blessed New Year. What a blessing it has been to witness the difference you are making in the lives of people with disabilities!

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804 622-5260 ngrignol@richmonddiocese.org
www.richmonddiocese.org/disabilities/index.htm