



NATIONAL CATHOLIC
PARTNERSHIP ON DISABILITY

ALIANZA NACIONAL CATÓLICA
SOBRE LA DISCAPACIDAD



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Franciscan University Catechetical Institute Webinar



Thank you for joining us for *Catechetically Serving Those with Disabilities and Their Families*. For more Catholic disability resources, please view the links below.

Register for NCPD Conference, *One Lord, One Faith, One Family*, [link to resource](#).

Scholarship application for *One Lord, One Faith, One Family*, [link to resource](#).

U.S. Bishop's *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities*, [link to resource](#).

Speaking of Disability: Pastoral Guidelines on Language, [link to resource](#).

Pastoral Response to Persons with Mental Illness, [link to resource](#).

LAMB Inclusive Participation Tool, [link to resource](#).

Parish Access Contact Guide, [link to resource](#).

Learn about Saint Margaret of Castello, patron saint of persons with disabilities, [link to resource](#).

Online Training: *Sensory Friendly Masses*, [link to resource](#).

Online Training: *Parish Based Mental Health Ministry*, [link to resource](#).

Online Course: *Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities*, [link to resource](#).

Feel free to contact us with further questions.

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ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE FAMILY: DISABILITY MINISTRY IN A SYNODAL CHURCH

OCTOBER 21-22, 2022

Keynotes

Most Rev. Bishop Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D.

Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria in TX

Dr. Joseph White

Director of Catechetical Resources
for Our Sunday Visitor Publishing



NCPD invites you to participate
at our upcoming conference

at

St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church
7810 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX 77379

Located in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Email: ncpd@ncpdevents.org

 ncpd.org



Serving Those with Disabilities and Their Families

Suggested forms of help by Chad Judice, Diocese of Lafayette, LA

- I. Why am I qualified to speak on this as a parent of a child with special needs? – www.chadjudice.com - Director of Catechetics – Diocese of Lafayette
- II. Short synopsis of the story of the Judice Family: *Eli's Reach: A Family's Journey from Fear to Faith* – Documentary Film
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Gc0uy4oMnQ&t=3s>
- III. **Top challenges:** It goes without saying that ministry in this arena is challenging, and something that today's Catholic Church is aiming to improve. Before discussing possible ways forward there, let's first explore what you each see **as the top one or two areas of most** serious challenge or struggle in what Catholic leaders face today in seeking to better serve families and build better ministry programs to serve those with disabilities and their families.
 - A. **Resources** – (Material & Communal)
 - <https://aleteia.org/2021/11/10/how-to-find-find-joy-as-a-special-needs-parent/>
 - “So when Kelly recently released her latest book, *Better Than OK*, I downloaded it onto my Kindle. I happened to read it during a week in which I suffered a devastating professional disappointment and it made me realize that Kelly's wisdom about the stages of **grief after learning of a diagnosis applies to many things in life. I also learned a lot from her tips about the ways a person can support a family with special needs – something I was pretty clueless about.**
 - <https://www.acadianhouse.com/biographies#!/Waiting-For-Eli-A-Fathers-Journey-from-Fear-to-Faith/p/424989821/category=125447609> – man's perspective –
 - https://www.amazon.com/When-Get-Play-Extraordinary-Challenges/dp/1664215328/ref=sr_1_1 - (*When do I get to Play: Holding God's Hand in Extraordinary Challenges* – by Brian Watkins) – for parents with special needs children
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efXj1WRIOTg&list=PLoj14Mt-gFS2eBtF-FzD6uQwNrm49KG6H&index=8&t=736s>
 - Podcast – The Art of Suffering: Episode 17 – Interview with Brian Watkins about this book –
 - B. Community for the family – parish – or school – or make a connection for them to a support group – (Red Bird Ministries – death of a child) – loss of a healthy child – that grief doesn't end and it is as frequent as the pain that comes from the constant reminder of the loss of the expected healthy life of a child with a disability.

- IV. **What moves individuals to think differently and to care:** Each of you has very different experiences and backgrounds. When you have seen individual parish or school leaders really grow from a place of little understanding to a place of real clarity, awareness, and desire to serve those with disabilities and their families, what have you seen has most influenced that kind of movement in that person?
- A. **Reality** – Embracing the opportunity to be integrated or enculturated in the life of a special needs family – example from Eli’s life – (Michael’s testimony) – willingness to acknowledge the journey in its totality and its ups and downs – (sympathy vs. empathy)
 - B. **When others have been moved spiritually** – by the child with special needs becomes the most effective source of evangelization and catechesis – on one of the most pressing questions of our time for those who leave the faith – Why does an all loving God allow suffering?
 - C. <https://www.ncregister.com/features/eli-the-evangelizer> - stories from *Eli’s Reach: On the Value of Human Life and the Power of Prayer*
- V. **What does a strong organization/community look like:** It may be that in some places this is hard to come by, but in places that you have witnessed the presence in a parish or school community of a vibrant and strong effort to serve those with disabilities and their families, what are its characteristics and best practices?
- A. **Relationships** – (Brian and Allen) – Catholic worldview is so important – men for men & women for women (Proverbs 27:17)
 - B. <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/41380/how-this-mom-of-disabled-children-is-helping-others-to-accept-the-gift>
 - C. "From a theological standpoint, the Catholic faith is so instrumental in how I deal with my struggles as a special needs parents, we have such a rich theology of suffering." Mantoan said, explaining that her Catholic faith has uniquely equipped her to accept her sons' diagnoses.
 - D. "Many special needs parents are full time caregivers. They can't leave. They can't fly somewhere for multiple days of travel for an event. They are on 24/7. That's who we most want to reach, and that's why we streamed the content," she said.
- VI. **Best steps for leaders:** If I am a diocesan leader, or a parish or school leader, what would you suggest are some of things that would be most worth my time to do in helping others become stronger in Christian formation and more effective at raising awareness in this area of great ministry need?
- A. **Recognition** – your own limitations or that of your staff and seek the counsel of those who can aid you in making these needs as accessible as possible – try to establish a liaison in the parish with the Diocesan office or someone in the Diocesan office with these types of organizations.
 - B. <https://www.acceptingthegift.org/> - Catholic Parents of Special Needs Children Support Group