



# **'We Have a Story'**

**Spring Edition 2006**

## **Newsletter of the National Network for Disability and Spirituality**

**A Work of the Bishops Commission for the Pastoral Life**

Welcome to the fourth edition of "We Have a Story", the quarterly newsletter of the National Network for Disability and Spirituality.

### **Articles**

Some articles are accompanied by images. Please refer to the Printable Version (PDF) for the full version of the document.

## **BREAKING NEWS!!!**

### **News from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference**

**The new publication "We have a Story" will be launched on Monday 4 December 2006 in Canberra. The new hymn 'One Body in Christ' will also be launched and preformed at the launch Mass.**

**Every parish in Australia will receive a free copy of the new hymn 'One Body in Christ' on compact disc to celebrate International Day of People with Disability.**

Please let us know how your diocese, parish or organisation is celebrating International Day of People with Disability and it will be published in the next newsletter. Share your 'good news' with us!

For information on International Day of People with Disability and to register your celebration on a national secular level, go to the following link [http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/policy-international\\_day\\_pwd.htm](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/policy-international_day_pwd.htm)

## **Thank You**

The Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life would like to thank all those who sent in stories, images and/or photographs for the new publication "We Have a Story". One hundred and one stories were collected. The publication is currently in the hands of a graphic designer and we eagerly await the first draft.

## **Celebrating Ability – Fr Anthony Kain**

Now is the time to start preparing for International Day of People with Disability. Read how the Archdiocese of Adelaide celebrated International Day of People with Disability at

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200512031053.pdf>

## **A Story of Renewal – Jennifer Kellaway**

My story began way back in September 2003, when I went to the RTA to renew my MPS (Mobility Parking Scheme) Card. I was informed that under new rules, not only must I furnish a medical certificate, but also now pay a \$30 fee. Read this story at

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/20060816202.pdf>

## **Bernadette and the Ramp – Mrs Barbara Harris**

In this article the author outlines the challenge to get Bernadette from floor level up the fifteen steps to the sanctuary level. Read Barbara's article at

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200609011493.pdf>

## **Open to All – Responding to All Members of My Family – Carmel Ross**

Lip service or love? Faith cannot stand alone; it cannot just be about "me and God" or "me and Jesus". Wherever we find human need around us, the opportunity and responsibility of responding faces us. If we really believe in the God of Trinity and hold the Gospel records of the life of Jesus to be authentic information about our God, then we will not hesitate to be active in serving those in our parishes with special needs. Read this article at

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200608011675.pdf>

## **Shattered Vessels – Maureen Gaus**

I considered, this morning, the mystery of how God can make use of mental illness for His own purposes. With my own difficulties, in the MI realm, I find myself unable to attend Mass, without great psychological upset (past experience, on many levels, and illness, which I think that God understands). Read this reflection at

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200609011002.pdf>

## **Cloning Morally Abhorrent – Damir Govorcin ‘The Catholic Weekly’**

The creation of human beings by IVF and cloning for the purpose of destructive research are practices which are “abhorrent morally and of no proven value scientifically”, says Bishop Anthony Fisher, Episcopal Vicar for Life and Health. Read this article from ‘The Catholic Weekly’ at

<http://www.catholicweekly.com.au/print.php?articleID=2230&class=News&subclass=National>

## **A Journey to the Centre – L’Arche Genesaret**

Beyond description was the manner in which everyone helped someone less able. It was a privilege to be surrounded by the loving and caring, and acceptance of everyone, one for another. Read this reflection at

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200611131007.pdf>

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Multiple Chemical Sensitivity – Bob Michaels**

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity needs to be taken into consideration when planning any event. We all need to be aware that some people attending Church celebrations or events may be chemical sensitive. Read this article at

[http://www.ilru.org/html/publications/readings\\_in\\_IL/MCS.html](http://www.ilru.org/html/publications/readings_in_IL/MCS.html)

## **Newsletters**

Parish Disability Connections Newsletter (Diocese of Wollongong NSW)

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200609011265.pdf>

Disability News (UnitingCare SA)

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/2006070123.pdf>

## **What’s On**

### **New Eugenics – Socially Responsible Reproduction or Disability**

**Prejudice:** Queensland Advocacy invites you to this seminar at

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/20060901241.pdf>

### **Public Health Rally – National Chemical Injury and Sensitivity Day:**

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200609011114.pdf>

## Subscription

**The main purpose of this newsletter** is to provide resources, stories, assistance, advice and up to date information on how we, as Church, can promote and encourage the full participation of people with disability and their families. The newsletter is a direct response to the consultation undertaken for 'I Have a Story'. <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bc/famlife/2004090711.htm>

**'We Have a Story' Newsletter** is a project of the Disability Consultant of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life. This work has its origin and continued support of the Family Working Group, which is a lay arm of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life. More information on the Family Working Group is available at <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/councils/fwg/index.asp>

**For the audio version of the articles**, click on "Printable Version" to download the portable document format. Save the file to your computer, open the file, go to the View button and click on the 'read out loud' button for the audio version.

**"We Have a Story" is published quarterly.** Our next edition will be the summer edition in December 2006. Please direct articles, stories and any comments to the Disability Consultant at <mailto:disability@catholic.org.au>

**To subscribe to this newsletter**, complete the mailing list at <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/org/disability/subscribe.html>. Alternatively, send an email to <mailto:nndsnews@catholic.org.au> with the word "Subscribe" in the subject.

**To unsubscribe from this newsletter**, simply send an email to <mailto:nndsnews@catholic.org.au> with the word "Remove" in the subject.

## Contact Details

For enquiries, please contact the

Disability Consultant  
Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life  
GPO Box 368  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
T (02) 6201 9868  
F (02) 6247 6083  
E <mailto:disability@catholic.org.au>  
W <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/org/disability>