



'We Have a Story'

Autumn Edition 2008

Newsletter of the National Network for Disability and Spirituality

A Work of the Bishops Commission for the Pastoral Life

Welcome to the sixth 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.

News from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

The Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life announces Bishop Peter Elliott as the new Bishops' Delegate for Disability Issues.

Bishop Peter Elliott is the Titular Bishop of Manaccenser and Auxiliary Bishop in the Southern Region of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

I have only been to Lourdes once. I spent a week there in July 1968.

Read Bishop Elliott's homily for the Combined Societies of Mary 150TH Anniversary of the First Apparition of Our Lady at Lourdes Pontifical Mass celebrated at St Mary the Immaculate Conception Church, East Malvern, Victoria, Australia at <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200802101798.pdf>

Articles

Spirituality Matters

Jim O'Farrell

Professor John Swinton, Professor in Practical Theology at King's College, Aberdeen University and Founder of the Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability, made a brief visit to Melbourne recently. Whilst here, he gave an address at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) entitled: *Exploring the Spiritual Lives of People with Intellectual Disabilities*.

Read Jim O'Farrell's full article at
<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200712031417.pdf>

World Youth Day

Alan Wedd
Education and Development Coordinator
Personal Advocacy Service Perth

Over the last 6 – 9 months we have been planning a group of 20 (mainly) young adults with intellectual disability to Sydney for WYD in July 2008. Each of our 'pilgrims' will be accompanied by their own 'support person', and we will bring five additional adults (staff/volunteers) who will attend to all the various organisational details that are necessary. This gives us a total group size of 45.

Read Alan Wedd's full article at
<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200712151458.pdf>

My Body – What I Need To Know

Cheryl Curnow
Project Manager
Natural Family Planning Program

The Board of the Natural Family Planning Program saw the need to develop a resource for teaching people with a mild intellectual disability, and with funding from the Commonwealth Government, set out to achieve just that. We were looking to develop a handbook which would systematically and sensitively build on concepts and knowledge that would enable people with a mild intellectual disability to be empowered to better understand their own sexuality and make more informed decisions in this important area of life.

Read Cheryl Curnow's full article at
<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/200803021806.pdf>

Chris Van Ingen's Spiritual Journey

Chris Van Ingen

My name is Chris van Ingen. I am twenty-three years old and I have cerebral palsy. I have never let my disability stop me from achieving my goals.

I have always been lucky in my life even though people have trouble believing me when I say this. *"You're in a wheelchair. How is that lucky?"* The answer is I have the best family in the world.

Read Chris Van Ingen's full article at

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/20071203543.pdf>

A Message from the Kennedy's

Catherine Kennedy

We are the Kennedys. Now, we like to think we are just a normal Australian family, nothing pretentious about us at all!

Read Catherine Kennedy's full article at

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/20080302519.pdf>

"Were You There?"

Patricia Mowbray

The Canberra Faith and Light signing choir was asked to participate in the Stations of the Cross for the visitation of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon in the parish of St Vincent De Paul Aranda, in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Read the full article at

<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/documents/20080223104.pdf>

Major Events

World Youth Day – Sydney 15 to 20 July 2008

<http://www.wyd2008.org/>

International Day of People with Disability – 3 December 2008

<http://www.idpwd.com.au/index.asp>

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>

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 spring edition in September 2007. Please direct articles, stories and any comments to the Disability Projects Officer at <mailto:disability@catholic.org.au>.

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