



Welcome to Opening Doors!

How many times have you recited the Serenity Prayer? Do you know the whole prayer? Many people who pray *The Serenity Prayer* know at least the first three lines.

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.

Amen

Attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

Serenity is the absence of chaos. Many people with disabilities and their caregivers find this prayer helpful as they live through trials and tribulations they encounter each day. From time to time we all experience frustration and things that are out of our control. Our lives can be messy. But what about the rest of the prayer? In the second part of the prayer, we are asking to live our life trusting in God, learning to let go, and trust in God's timing. We are asking God's help to surrender to His will. Surrender is the ability *to yield to the power, control, or possession of another upon compulsion or demand* (Merriam Dictionary). We are asking God to help us to surrender to His will. It is not always so easy to surrender everything and put our lives completely in God's hands. We need to ask God's help to live our lives to trust and surrender to him.

I. ***Did You Know?***

April is Autism Awareness Month!



April **Autism Awareness Month**
Many families have members on the autism spectrum. Learn more about autism to understand the perspective of individuals and families, and how you can be of support.

Make a Difference

- Learn about autism.
- Ask friends who have family members with autism if there is a way to support them.
- Ask at your parish how those with autism are accommodated in religious formation and other parish events/groups.

 National Catholic Partnership on Disability
www.ncpd.org

AAHD Frederick J. Krause Scholarship on Health and Disability Scholarships for students with disabilities.

The AAHD Frederick J. Krause Scholarship on Health and Disability is awarded annually to deserving students with a disability who are pursuing undergraduate/graduate studies (must be at least enrolled as a sophomore in college) in an accredited university. They must be pursuing studies related to the

health and disability, to include, but not limited to public health, health promotion, disability studies, disability research, rehabilitation engineering, audiology, disability policy, special education, and majors that will impact quality of life of persons with disabilities. Funds are limited to under \$1,000.

The 2019-2020 scholarship information will be available on this link by mid-March 2019: <https://www.aahd.us/initiatives/scholarship-program>

II. *What's Happening!*

- *Mass for God's Special Children*, their families and friends is held every month at 2:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church, 444 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA on the following dates:

- ❖ March 10, 2019
- ❖ April 14, 2019
- ❖ May 5, 2019
- ❖ June 2, 2019

- *Tulane-Special Olympics Unified Intramural Basketball League*

Athletes of all skill levels are invited to join our free half-court, co-ed, 3-on-3 basketball league! Teams will be made up of a mix of Tulane students and Special Olympics athletes. Free uniforms will be provided. Spots are limited so register now!

Games will be on Friday afternoons, and the complete schedule is listed below. If you have any questions, please email us at gabefeldman@gmail.com or call Gabe Feldman at 202-441-6280.

Here is the complete schedule:

Friday, March 15th: 3:45pm-5:30pm
(league games; teams will play in 1-hour blocks)

Friday, March 22nd: 3:45pm-5:30pm
(league games; teams will play in 1-hour blocks)

Friday, March 29th: 3:45pm-5:30pm
(league games; teams will play in 1-hour blocks)

Friday, April 5th: 3:45pm-5:30pm (playoffs!)

- *First Responder Autism Training March 22nd from 9:00-3:00*

YMCA Children's Unified Benefits and Services (Y CUBS) is excited to be hosting a FREE First Responder Autism Training on March 22nd from 9:00-3:00 with lunch provided. Nationally known trainers, Sergeant Jimmy Donohoe and Captain Bill Cannata, will be leading the training to be held at Race Track/Black & Gold Room, 1751 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA. This is open to all first Responders (police, security, EMS, Firefighters, etc.). The link to sign up is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4daca729a7f49-1stresponder>

- **Disability Advocates Formation Spring Workshop**, Saturday, May 4, 2019, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon, Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Gym, 2241 Mendez Street, New Orleans, LA. Please download the flyer [here](#).

Join other parish advocates as presenter, Maureen Pratt, offers insight and practical suggestions on how to bring compassion and understanding of what it truly means to be *accepting* and *welcoming* of all in your parish life.

Register by April 24, 2019

Email your name, church parish, and phone number to:

planningandministries@arch-no.org

Our Lady of Divine Providence, Metairie, LA



Kristy and Dan Marshall, blind parishioners of Our Lady of Divine Providence are attending the parish RCIA program. They had their marriage blessed at OLDP on Saturday Feb. 9, 2019. A reception with friends and parishioners followed. Kristy and Dan will be fully initiated into the church on Easter Vigil.

III Question Corner???

Q: *How does someone with a walker bring up the gifts?*

A: There are different options depending on the scenario.

- The easiest option is to have another person carry the gift as they walk (or roll) alongside the person with the walker.
- If the walker has a tray or seat, place the bowl of unconsecrated hosts on it as the person slowly walks with the walker

In the past CPD Masses, people that use walkers or wheelchairs have brought up the gifts. People that are visually impaired have also brought gifts to the celebrant. Every situation is unique, yet your parish advocate can always contact someone on the CPD board to discuss the best way for someone with a walker to bring up the gifts and participate in the celebration.

You can submit your questions or information you would like to see in Opening Doors e-Newsletter to klivauda@bellsouth.net. Please use Opening Doors in the subject line. We encourage you to share some of what is in **Opening Doors** with your parish by publishing some info in your church bulletins.