

February/March 2020



**Welcome to *Opening Doors!***

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



Saint Giles is the Patron  
Saint of the Disabled

Saint Giles was a popular saint during the Middle Ages and numerous miracles have been ascribed to his intercession. He was born in the seventh century somewhere in southeastern France. He longed for solitude and sought this solitude in the woods where according to some stories his sole companion was a deer. He lived in a cave as a hermit and was sustained by prayer and the milk of a deer.

One day the Gothic King Wamba pursued St. Giles animal companion as part of his hunting expedition. The deer fled towards St. Giles cave, and thus the king's arrow aimed at the deer hit St. Giles instead. As compensation, King Wamba gave St. Giles a piece of land in the Provence, on which he build a monastery.

His devotion was widespread and this led him to becoming the patron for those who were in need. He is known as the patron saint of beggars, the disabled, depression, cancer and madness.

<https://catholicsaintmedals.com/saints/st-giles/>

## Prayer of Healing for the Disabled

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that the revered intercession of St Giles  
may bring us heavenly aid,  
just as his wonderful life  
is an example of humility for all.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.

Amen

<https://prayers4reparation.wordpress.com/2013/08/24/prayer-to-st-giles/>

## Disability Advocates Formation Fall Workshop



Advocates in attendance at the fall workshop had the honor of hearing Fr. Michael Champagne, CJC, from Lafayette talk about of his devotion to the Eucharist and his unconventional approach to evangelization. They heard how he brings the Eucharist to the people with his Eucharist Procession floating down the bayous of Evangeline Parish. He brought along one of his “spiritual care units” for us to experience. He explained how he started with an ambulance converted to mobile confessional and goes where the people are such as fairs, festivals, concerts, etc. There was so much demand for this outreach the he now has converted two covered trailers to confessionals that are pulled with a pickup truck. Fr. Champagne encouraged the advocates to “think outside the box” to help people with disabilities and their caregivers and find ways to reach and welcome those beyond the church walls.

The second half of the workshop we heard from Barbara McAtee, from the Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education, about the **USCCB Approved Revision of "Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities"** and how to get help for anyone wishing to celebrate the sacraments. Click [here](#) to download this document.



Deacon Jesse Watley from Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos in conjunction with the Archdiocesan Office of Worship, gave us insight on including all people in parish liturgies that wish to participate. If you are a person with special needs and would like to participate in a particular ministry, call your parish and speak with your pastor or staff person.

## II. *What's Happening!*

- **1) The next Mass for God's Special Children** is Sunday, February 2, 2020, at St. Francis Xavier on Metairie Road at 2:00 PM. Let us know if your angel would like to participate or if you can provide refreshments.  
**2) Please read the following link** entitled - Subject: Autistic children welcomed at special 'sensory friendly' Mardi Gras concert. Click [here](#) to view.  
**3) See the following announcement** from the city of New Orleans sent to us by Fr. Jim Deshotels **NORD Presents Inaugural Special Needs Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball (Feb.8)**. Click [here](#) to view.
- **The next Quarterly Mass for Persons with Disabilities** will be **April 26, 2020, at St. Genevieve, 58203 Hwy. 433, Slidell, LA at 11:00 AM**. All are invited to attend. If you would like to participate, please call Janet Pesce at 504-455-6801
- **Welcome new advocates!** We have several new advocates that have been appointed in the past few months. Special welcome to Vera Landry-St. Mary of the Angels, Stephen & Olgarita Lee-Our Lady of Guadalupe, Roger Davis- Resurrection of Our Lord,

Lynne Parks- St. Angela Merici, Linda Monistere- St. Joan of Arc, Destinee Turner- St. Patrick-Port Sulphur, Cheryl Lay-St. Thomas/Assumption and Andrew Monteleone-St. Margaret Mary. If you have not yet attended a new advocate training, please join us on February 5, 2020, 5:30 PM-6:15 PM, 7887 Walmsley Ave, New Orleans, LA 70125. If you need more information, please call Shirley Bertucci at 504-733-3554.

- **The Commission on Persons with Disabilities** will meet on February 5, 2020, at 6:30 PM at Walmsley. New advocate training will be at 5:30 PM.
- **Social and Fellowship**
  - Third Saturday of every month @ 1:00 PM**
  - Piccadilly Cafeteria located in the Clearview Palms Shopping Center, 2222 Clearview Parkway, Suite 107, Metairie, LA, 70001**
  - Contacts: Kristen Cipriani (504)723-5601 or Carol Burke (504)577-1415**
  - ALL are invited! Join us for lunch, a glass of water, just to chat, or bring a game! (We'll play dominoes if no one brings their favorite game). This is a wonderful opportunity for able-bodied people to assist people with various disabilities so they can have a social experience. The result is a truly incredible social experience for everyone!
- **Mass for God's Special Children**, their families and friends is held every month at 2:00 PM at St Francis Xavier Church, 444 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA on the following dates.
  - February 2, 2020
  - March 1, 2020
  - April 5, 2020 (Palm Sunday)
  - May 3, 2020
  - June 7, 2020
  - July 12, 2020
- **Mass for God's Northshore Blessings**-All are invited to Mass on the 3rd Sunday of every month except June at 2:00 PM at Our Lady of the Lake, 312 Lafitte St., Mandeville, LA, in the Chotin Center. Bring your friends and family.
  - February 16, 2020
  - March 15, 2020
  - April 19, 2020
  - May 17, 2020

- **Mark your calendars NOW for the Spring Workshop** on Saturday, May 2, 2020, at Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Gym, 9:00-1:00, a light lunch will follow. All are encouraged to participate- advocates, commission members, and guests.

### III. Question Corner

What are the difference between *accommodations* and *modifications in the classroom*?

Accommodations and modifications are adaptations made to the environment, instruction, and assessment so students with disabilities can participate in the general education classroom and in school-wide activities.

**Accomodations** address *how* the students access the information. It does not change the content or instruction level or how they are tested. The changes made help the students have equal access to learning and show what he or she can do. Some examples of accommodations include: how a lesson is presented, instructional strategies, response format and procedure, time and scheduling, equipment, environment, and assignment structure.

**Modifications** are changes on *what* the student is expected to learn. These changes allow the student to participate meaningfully with other students in the classroom. Modification changes include: instruction level, content, performance criteria, and assignment structure.

For more information click [here](#).

We welcome and encourage you to share any information or questions or you would like to see in Opening Doors e-Newsletter to [klivauda@bellsouth.net](mailto:klivauda@bellsouth.net). Please use Opening Doors in the subject line. We encourage you to share **Opening Doors** with your parish.