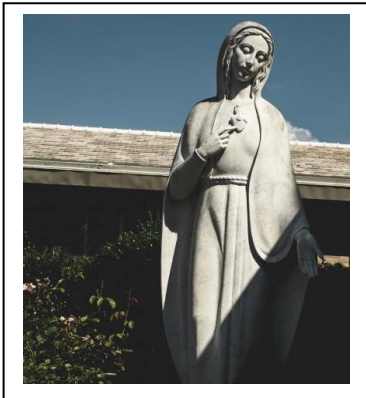




Welcome to Opening Doors!

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

A Litany to Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted for Mental Health Support during the COVID-19 Crisis *(For use in private prayer)*



Holy Mother, Comforter of the Afflicted and Queen of Peace. So many of us are struggling with mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Turn your loving gaze upon us and be a source of comfort during this time of need.

For persons with autoimmune disorders...Holy Mother, comfort them.

For persons with OCD...Holy Mother, comfort them.

For persons with paranoia...Holy Mother, comfort them.

For persons with sensory disorders...Holy Mother, comfort them.

For those who are sick with COVID-19...Holy Mother, comfort them.

For those who might not have the resources to self-isolate...Holy Mother, comfort them.

For the homeless...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For the hungry...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For those who have lost their jobs...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For businesses who are struggling to make ends meet...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For those who are hungry...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For those experiencing domestic violence...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For persons with limited access to healthcare...Holy Mother, comfort them.

For those who are grieving...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For students...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For healthcare workers...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For grocery store workers...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For postal service workers...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For public transportation workers...Holy Mother, comfort them.

For the elderly...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For caregivers...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For parents of children with disabilities...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For parents with limited childcare...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For single parents...Holy Mother, comfort them.
For anyone who is lonely or afraid...Holy Mother, comfort them.

Holy Mother, Comforter of the Afflicted and Queen of Peace, we know that you are with us and we know that you love us. Help us to turn our eyes towards your maternal gaze in this time of distress. We implore your intercession so that you can help us to unite more fully in Christ's merciful love.

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Related Disability or Ministry:

[Mental Illness](#)

Resource Type:

[NCCL2020](#)

Inclusive Participation Assessment Tool from the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, LAMB: Language, Accessibility, Meaningful Participation, Belonging

We are called to follow the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, reaching out so that all feel welcomed, valued, and affirmed. Expertise is not needed. All that is necessary is the will to meet each person, get to know him or her, and form a relationship. To do this it is important to consider various forms of communication, various ways of moving in spaces, various ways of participating, and various ways to nurture an environment of belonging. Four attributes of thriving communities that foster spiritual growth for all are Language, Accessibility, Meaningful Participation, and Belonging (LAMB). The NCPD Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) offers the LAMB Assessment Tool to support this vision by guiding the development and evaluation of programs, materials and/ or other resources for use in the Church, relative to accessibility or usability for all persons. Please go to the links below to access these tools.

 [Download here.](#)

Program Type:

[Diocese/ Parishes](#)

Resource Type:

[NCCL2020, Parish Welcome](#)

COVID-19 poses unique challenges for people with disabilities

A John Hopkins report with Bonnielin Swenor, Associate professor of epidemiology and ophthalmology at the *John Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute* and the *Bloomberg School of Public Health*.

INTRO: For people with disabilities, all general challenges that come with the Covid-10 pandemic apply, but additional barriers demand greater attention. Greater insight into the unique needs of this community during this crisis may just be a positive opportunity to gain greater public interest and understanding while openness to addressing greater respect for each other captures open minds.

Read the Staff report: <https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/04/23/how-covid-19-affects-people-with-disabilities/>

Louisiana Departments or Agencies with Dedicated COVID-19 Pages

- Governor: www.gov.louisiana.gov/coronavirus
- LA Department of Health: www.ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus/
- LA Economic Development: <https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/covid19>
- LA Workforce Commission: www.laworks.net/PublicRelations/COVID_19_Information.asp
- Unemployment Claims: www.louisianaworks.net/hire/vosnet/Default.aspx
- Department of Child and Family Services: www.dss.state.la.us/page/coronavirus

- Department of Education: www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/covid-19
- Board of Regents: regents.la.gov/covid19-response/
- Department of Revenue: revenue.louisiana.gov/NewsAndPublications/COVID19
- LA Housing Corporation: www.lhc.la.gov/covid19
- Department of Corrections: doc.louisiana.gov/covid-19-information/
- Department of Environmental Quality: www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/covid19
- Department of Wildlife and Fisheries: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/category/covid19-state-feed
- LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry: www.ldaf.state.la.us/covid-19/
- LA Department of Insurance: www.ldi.la.gov/consumers/insurance-type/healthinsurance/covid-19
- State Library: click [here](#) for access

II. *What's Happening?*

An article written by Elise Ann Allen, Senior Correspondent for CRUX, June 25, 2020, is available below. Published June 25, new guidelines were approved by Pope Francis in March of 2020. The guidelines specifically invite local churches to give greater attention to catechesis for not only people with disabilities, but also migrants, the marginalized and prisoners, as well as the elderly.

“Vatican says don’t deny disabled people the sacraments”:

<https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2020/06/vatican-says-dont-deny-disabled-people-the-sacraments/>

Mass for Gods’ Special Children has resumed their monthly schedule at St Francis Xavier Church, 444 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA at 2:00 PM. The attendance at the June Mass was well received in person (55 in attendance) as well as virtually (reached 354 people). To view the Mass, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/153885781305741/videos/549689189030009/>

They hope to offer live streaming at future Masses. The schedule is as follows:

July 12, 2020

August 2, 2020

September 13, 2020

October 4, 2020-Archbishop Aymond will concelebrate the 16th Anniversary Mass

The Summer Workshop for Parish Advocates was a huge success last Saturday (June 27th) as we had a virtual experience via Zoom with guest speaker Mike Patin. Thank you Mike and thanks to everyone that worked to make sure our advocates could access the meeting. Save the date for our Fall Workshop scheduled Saturday, November 14, 2020, at Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Gym, 9:00-1:00. For those still practicing social distancing, we are planning to offer a virtual experience for you. More to come.

III. Question Corner

A: What is a Parish Advocate?

The Parish Advocate is a parishioner, appointed by the pastor, who assists him in working for and with parishioners with disabilities. In consultation with the pastor, the advocate reaches out to the parish to identify needs, barriers, and offers to serve in ministerial roles. By responding to the identified needs and gifts, the parish advocate works to promote the full participation of children and adults with disabilities and elders in the life of the parish.

Top three responsibilities of a Parish Advocate:

- 1) **Be a visible and approachable presence in the parish**
- 2) **Work with your network to determine best practices and resources**
- 3) **Listen**

B: Do you know of any social media where I can get information about Catholics with disabilities?

Here are a few that may be helpful:

The Commission on persons with Disabilities from the Archdiocese of New Orleans
[Commission on Persons with Disabilities](#)

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability
[National Catholic Partnership on Disability](#)

Twitter - @NCPD_USA

Instagram - ncpd_usa

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. 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 information in your church bulletins.