

Welcome to Opening Doors!

We Are One Flock

God, bless those who open doors
With faith,
With love,
With knowledge,
Assuring that
All your people may
Worship here.

God, bless those who
Welcome all your people
To the celebrations and Obligations,
Membership within your Church.

Open our hearts
To move swiftly
Within your grace,
To hear your message
In silent words,
To glimpse your glory beyond our sight,
To find your wisdom in simple truths,
To accept our weakness In your strength.

Let us join Christ in breaking down those walls
Which separate us, one from another.

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“Chapter 2” Welcomed and Valued: Building Faith Communities of Support and Hope with People with Mental Illness and Their Families, National Catholic Partnership on Disability, 2009, pp. 57-73 Diocese of Des Moines Disability Ministry www.dmdiocese.org/disabilityministry

I. *Did You Know?*

- **Heroic virtue of the Servant of God Jérôme Lejeune**

This story is a great testimony of faith from one man who held deep respect for the disability community, to the point of losing a Nobel prize to continue to serve his mission for it. He is on the path to sainthood and was shown favor by Pope John Paul II in this effort.

At this COVID time, so many are losing hope and struggling. It seems stories of courage and strength may uplift us as we strive to serve the needs of those often unspoken. It may help bring us renewed patience.

Here is the article:

<https://stannmelkitechurch.org/2021/01/21/jerome-lejeune/>

- **Parenting children with special needs during COVID-19**

A highly informative article was sent to us by God's Special Children's Friend Deacon VM Wheeler.

Parenting a child with special needs or chronic conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic requires drawing on your strengths and returning to the basics.

The Mayo Clinic Staff has written some helpful ideas to help children with special needs and their families navigate these uncertain times. The link can be found here.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/special-needs-parenting-covid-19/art-20487665>

- **Inclusion in Catholic Schools Special Issue Available Now**

All children have God-given potential and human dignity, for they are made in His image. Catholic teachings are clear about this assertion, and they implore us to reach out to the margins and open our Catholic school doors so every child has a seat at the table."

From [Introduction to the Special Issue](#) by Guest Editors Christine Bonfiglio, Michael Boyle, Michael Faggella-Luby, and Sean Smith
[link to The Journal of Catholic Schools can be found below](#)

The link to the Journal can be found below.

[New Research on Inclusion in Catholic Schools \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

- ***A Teacher's Guide to Inclusive Lenten Activities***

Lent is a beautiful time for catechists, students, our colleagues, and ourselves to focus on the beauty of the Incarnation and reality that all are made in the likeness and image of God. As we make a special commitment to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent, we may want to consider the following ways of giving voice to persons with disabilities and their families.

Click on the link below to access A Teacher's Guide to Inclusive Lenten Activities.

[Untitled \(ncpd.org\)](#)

II. *What's Happening!*

Save the Date

The next workshop for Parish Advocates will be held on April 17, 2021 9:00 a.m.

God's Special Children's

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:

- February 7
- March 7
- April 11
- May 9
- June 6
- July 11
- August 1
- September 12
- October – to be determined based on Archbishop Aymond's schedule
- November 7
- December 5

Dear God's Special Children, Families and Friends,

GSC's friend Jeanna Broussard has asked us to share with everyone information about an amazing program (Catholic and secular) that trains kids with disabilities in IT and helps them find high earning jobs free of cost.

If you know a teenager or young adult who is interested in IT, please take a look! Click the first link to find out more about the program and the St. Andrew Academy link to register for the informational meeting.

St. Andrew Academy (a branch of the Michigan Bridge

Academy www.michiganbridgeacademy.org, <https://www.bridgetoopportunity.org/>)

Calling All Catholics with Disabilities Interested in an IT job and career: We are pleased to announce a new innovative train-to-hire program for young Catholics with disabilities to prepare them for meaningful jobs in information technology (IT). This program, called the St. Andrew Academy, is the first of its kind, is focused exclusively on young Catholics with disabilities and is tuition free to qualified candidates. Classes start in June 2021 and include technical (IT) training /certification, Faith Pathways enrichment program and ready-for-work training. The IT program includes training and certification that leads to meaningful jobs as IT technicians. The Faith enrichment program will help the candidates learn to better know, love and serve the Lord. If interested please attend an upcoming virtual student information session on January 28th, February 3rd , or February 10th at 7:00 pm. To register for one of these session please visit: www.standrewacademy.info/

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 some info in your church bulletins.

