Welcome to Opening Doors!
August-September 2021

We are One Flock

God bless those who open doors:
With faith, with love, with knowledge,
Assuring all your people may worship here... ...

God bless those who welcome all your people
To the celebrations and obligations
Membership within your Church

God bless those who feel excluded.
Give them faith
Give them love
Give them the knowledge
Of your welcome

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.

https://ncpd.org/disabilities-ministries-spirituality/prayers
Here are some resources that may help create welcoming and accessible parishes. These resources include:

**Opening Doors of Welcome and Justice to Parishioners with Disabilities: A Parish Resource Guide**
Create welcoming and accessible parishes using the information and suggestions in this resource from the experts at the National Catholic Partnership on Disability. The guide contains resources to help a parish evaluate its efforts to welcome parishioners with disabilities and gather better information about disabled parishioners.

**National Catholic Partnership on Disability Video Series**
- How to make your Catechetical Program more Inclusive for Diverse Learners
  By Charleen Katra, Executive Director, National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- Supporting Persons with Mental Illness
  By Charleen Katra, Executive Director, National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- Apoyando a estudiantes con necesidades de procesamiento sensorial
  By Esther Garcia, Director of Outreach and Diocesan Relations, National Catholic Partnership on Disability

**Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities**
The Body of Christ is called to be a faithful witness to the Gospel, with each member having a crucial personal mission. To this end, the Catholic bishops have revised and expanded their Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities to help assure that people with disabilities are able to participate in the sacramental life of the Church and share their own gifts as missionary disciples.

**Teaching Prayer to Persons with Disabilities.** In this webinar, Sr. Kathleen Schipani, will discuss the theological, pastoral and practical perspectives of praying with children and youth with disabilities. Father William Gillum will present on a way of praying with persons with profound disabilities. He will demonstrate a symbolic catechesis which awakens an intuitive awareness of God and leads to prayer.

All these resources are available at Catechesis with People with Disabilities | USCCB

NCPD (National Catholic Partnership of People with Disabilities) has free monthly Adapted Faith Formation lesson plans available on the website. These faith formation lessons were produced by the NCPD Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Enjoy!

**What's Happening!**

- NCPD Live - Peace with Dementia Rosary Join us for a conversation with Matthew Estrade on Tuesday, October 27 at 1 pm.
Matthew Estrade is a gerontologist, coach, and caregiver support group facilitator in the Greater New Orleans area. He is the author of "The Peace with Dementia Rosary: Education, Intentions, Community."

RSVP on Facebook here.

- Save the Date; Saturday, November 17, 2021 Workshop – Commission for People with Disabilities, Location and Time to be determined.

God’s Special Children’s

- Archbishop Gregory Aymond will be celebrating our 17th Anniversary Mass on Sunday, October 10 at 2:00 PM at St. Francis Xavier.
- Please mark your calendars.
- If your angel has not yet been Baptized, received First Communion, or been Confirmed, and if you would like for your angel to do so at our Anniversary Mass, please contact Sr. Mary Ellen Wheelahan at srmwheelahan@arch-no.org
- We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate God’s Eucharist at our God’s Special Children, Families and friends Mass, held monthly at St. Francis Xavier Mass on Metairie Road.
- To learn more about us, please contact Joy Zainey at: (504) 834-5865.
- If you would like to sign up to be on our mailing list, please contact: jay.zainey@gmail.com
- Special thanks to GSC’s friend, Steve Munster, for revamping and updating our website Please take a look at www.godsspecialchildren.org.

- **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:
  
  - August 1
  - September 12
  - October 10
  - November 7
  - December 5

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.