

National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) Webinar  
*How can we help? Parish Support for Veterans and their Families*  
October 18, 2011  
Veterans' Ministry Toolkit

**What Parishes and Dioceses Can Do for Vets....**  
**(ideas from parish and diocesan staff from around the country)**

1. Annual Mass to remember deceased and living veterans of all wars at a local cemetery, parish or diocesan site for Veterans' Day and Memorial Day.
2. Town Hall Meeting to discuss issues, ideas and to generate new ones for serving vets and their families.
3. Annual event with a speaker.
4. Parish-based support groups for veterans, similar to the NCPD and Faith and Fellowship model of mental illness support groups. Check our website for details at [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org), click in the bar of buttons at the top of the page: ministries/ministry specific/mental illness/council on mental illness.
5. Retreats for vets and for families. (Check the toolkit for examples of flyers and agendas in the toolkit.)
6. Parish Open House for Vets to learn about local parish services, and to engage vets to become involved in parish life.
7. Parish partnership with VA Hospitals and veteran services organizations.
8. Parish nurses – give and get training on PTSD and TBI.
9. Parish support while parishioners are serving in military and when they return.
10. Create a diocesan advisory council for veterans' issues; make sure it includes veterans and their families in the membership. Their ideas and perspective will be invaluable.
11. Prayer shawl ministry (many testimonies of the spiritual impact of prayer shawls). Directions for this and other "crafter" ministries are in the toolkit.
12. Veterans Day/Memorial Day Mass (targeted homilies/prayers of the faithful)
13. Listening Sessions, facilitated by a social worker (see how-to ideas in toolkit).
14. Town Hall Meeting, to discuss what your parish or diocese can do.
15. Housing for homeless vets based in or near parishes.