



Welcome to *Opening Doors!*

Opening Doors is our new quarterly e-Newsletter from the Commission on Persons with Disabilities for our advocates and others who are interested. Our mission statement says, "Through our witness, support, and sharing of knowledge and resources we provide a more meaningful, fruitful, and lifelong encounter with Christ for individuals living with disabilities and their families." Therefore, our goal for the e-Newsletter is to make it a vehicle for this sharing of knowledge and resources, supporting advocates in their efforts toward implementation of the CPD's mission.

Inside you will find:

- I. *Did You Know?*** A place to recognize the work our advocates are doing in their parishes, in addition to alerting to other items of interest. If you have any items you would like to contribute to this section please email them to klivauda@bellsouth.net.
- II. *What's Happening!*** Important dates and activities for advocates.
- III. *Question Corner???*** Do you have a specific question about advocacy or a disability? Others may also have the same question, so we created *Question Corner???*

All-Saints Prayer

Father, All-Powerful and ever-living God,
today we rejoice in the holy men and women
of every time and place.

May their prayers bring us your forgiveness and love

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I. Did You Know?

The holidays bring rich family experiences, but also stress and the potential for disorder, especially for family members with certain disabilities. Find ways to prepare for the holiday and enjoy the season.

- invite all to church
- allow for alone time for those who need it
- allow all to help in some way, as able
- reach out to those who may be spending the holidays alone
- remember self-care

November is Epilepsy Awareness Month

Have you ever lost your car keys and were faced with the prospect of not knowing how to get to work, school or meeting a friend for lunch? How did you feel? Since I was diagnosed with uncontrolled epilepsy twenty-eight (28) years ago, I have dealt with this limitation on a daily basis.

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder that causes sudden unexpected electrical charges to the brain, resulting in what is commonly known as a seizure. It doesn't "get the press" that it is due and, therefore, you may be surprised to learn that, in the United States alone, there are three (3) million (almost 2 out of 100) reported cases. To put it into context, that is more than the total number of people suffering from Cerebral Palsy, Parkinson's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis (MS) combined!

Throughout the ages, up to the early twentieth century, individuals suffering from this disorder were treated as if they were possessed by the devil or were mentally challenged and placed in an asylum for the rest of their natural lives. For many years, because of this stigma, many people would be too embarrassed to admit that they had epilepsy.

Thanks to modern technology, we have moved beyond the fears and superstitions of the past. Doctors can locate and identify injured portions of the brain that cause seizures and develop an appropriate treatment plan. A majority of people with epilepsy have brought their seizures under control with medication and live relatively normal lives.

Thanks to my faith and the loving support of my family, I have met the challenges and accepted this cross as a gift God has given me to speak openly, as an advocate, about the limitations that come with epilepsy. I am reminded of those hopeful words: "When God closes a door, He always opens a window".

Dan Dougherty, Glenside, PA

<http://www.ncpd.org/sites/default/files/Epilepsy%20Awarenes%20in%20November.pdf>

There are many informative webinars you can attend/view on a variety of topics related to disability and the Catholic Church. Visit NCPD (National Catholic Partnership on Disability) website at: <http://www.ncpd.org/webinars>

II. What's Happening!

Sunday, October 21, 2018 at 11:30 -*Quarterly Mass for Persons with Disabilities* at Mary Queen of Peace Church, 1501 West Causeway Approach, Mandeville, LA 70471

Saturday, November 10, 2016- *Parish Advocates Workshop* 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Gym, 2241 Mendez Street, New Orleans. Advocates and Commission members are encouraged to attend. This event is also open to anyone that has an interest in helping those with disabilities.

Miracle Beauties-A stress-free pageant for girls with special needs. Sunday, December 9, 2018, 12:00 PM. Please see the information below for details.

Miracle Beauties

For Girls With Special Needs

Sunday, December 9th, 12p.m.

At Best Western Plus Landmark Hotel
2601 Severn Ave., Metairie, La 70002



Register Your *Miracle Beauty* Now For Our Next Pageant

Like us on Facebook at *Miracle Beauties Pageant*. Register contestants via *Facebook* or email: ibrick033@aol.com

Miracles Beauties Pageant



"Where Miracles Shine"

Every contestant will receive a trophy and tiara. Application form is required for participation!

Miracle Beauties Pageant is stress free and created for our Beauties to enjoy their time to shine.

To make donations to Miracle Beauties Pageant, send checks to 3341 Maryland Avenue, Kenner LA 70065.

They are also accepting credit card donations by phone at 504.512.4274. All donations are tax deductible.



Founders,
Ricky and Julie Mire

Ricky (504) 512-4274
Julie (504) 512-4273



Thursday thru Saturday, January 9-12, 2019 - GULF COAST GO FAITH FORMATION CONFERENCE, Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, LA 70065. This annual conference is for anyone working, whether paid or volunteer, in formation ministries such as religious education, youth ministry, RCIA, liturgy, and more. The 2019 conference will include breakout sessions on “Knowing is Half the Battle: Recognizing Possible Student Delays” and “All are Welcome: Affirming the Dignity of Individuals with Disabilities” by Dr. Raul Escarpio and “Feeling Each Other’s Pain 1-Disability and the Body of Christ” by Walter Bonam. Please visit <https://go4th.faith/gcffc19participant/> for more information and to register.

Jason Rich at the Saints vs. Cleveland game



III. Question Corner???

How do I submit information or questions to Opening Doors e-Newsletter?

You can submit your questions or information 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.