

41ST Project FAITH Seminar



“Strengthening Your Parish and Diocesan Outreach to Parishioners with Disabilities”

Explore with leaders from the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) ways in which you can help assure that parishioners with disabilities experience belonging in your parish, participating fully in the sacramental life and sharing their own gifts as missionary disciples.

The Church reminds us that, by reason of their baptism, all Catholics are equal in dignity and have the same divine calling (USCCB, 1995). “Catholics with disabilities, like all Catholics, are incorporated in the Body of Christ as integral members. They, like any other member, belong to the faith community” (NCPD, 2015). “Ultimately, what is essential is a commitment to one body, one baptism, one Church, and one God. When persons with disabilities are excluded from catechetical and academic programs, a piece of the Body of Christ is missing (NCPD, 2010).”



Janice Benton, SFO

Executive Director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD). Janice guides initiatives which promotes participation of persons with disabilities in the Catholic Church. She speaks throughout the U.S, and as a guest on Catholic radio and television. She consults with the U.S. Catholic bishops and other organizational partners on life and disability issues. She has spoken at two international conferences on autism (Vatican, 2014 and Monterrey, Mexico, 2015), and presented two posters at the Vatican 2016 Living Fully international symposium and conference. On October 2017 she was at the Vatican where she helped to facilitate an international conference on catechesis and persons with disabilities. The conference was hosted by the Pontifical Council in Rome, promoting the New Evangelization, *“Catechesis and Persons with Disabilities: A necessary Engagement in the Daily Pastoral Life of the Church”*. In 2012, Janice received national awards from the Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocesan Social Action Directors and the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, USA. She is a professed Secular Franciscan, wife and mother of two adult children.



Esther Garcia

Manager of Programs and Outreach (NCPD)

Esther is passionate with the integration of persons with disabilities to a full participation in the life of the Church. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Communications, Master Catechist from the Diocese of Dallas and Bible Studies from the University of Dallas and has over 29 years of experience as a community and ecclesial volunteer, as well as a catechist. She is specialized in leading catechetical programs for children, youth, adults, and families. In addition, she leads formation in special education - autism and others disabilities - and early childhood in multicultural communities. Esther is a member of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, and the *Federación para la Catequesis con Hispanos (FCH)*. Esther was Director of Faith Formation at Sacred Heart Parish in the Diocese of Dallas and teacher at the Autism Treatment Center in Dallas. Esther is the Manager of Programs and Outreach from the National Catholic Partnership on Disability with headquarters in Washington DC. She lives in Texas with her husband and their two children. Her love for the persons with disabilities and her desire to serve them arose from having her own child, Eric, with autism.

This seminar offers the unique opportunity for us of familiarizing with Pastoral Statements of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which calls all of us to invite and welcome all people. We will be able to listen experts on the topic and share with participants from other dioceses.

We will be celebrating the 41st year of **Project FAITH** on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at

**Providence College
Ruane Great Room
Providence, Rhode Island
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Catholic Financial Life, has been sponsoring for 41 Years **Project FAITH** to fulfill their commitment to help persons with intellectual, developmental or physical challenges, the Deaf, the hard of hearing or blind; and the people who serve them. We thank the **Diocese of Providence Office of the Apostolate for People with Disabilities** for joining **Catholic Financial Life**, to present **Project FAITH** to enhance the spiritual growth of the catholic leaders who work with people with disabilities in the New England Dioceses.

Because of your commitment to grow in faith and serve people with disabilities, you and other leaders in the New England Dioceses are cordially invited to attend this one-day seminar. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Please complete the registration form attached and return to Irma at the address shown. If you wish, simply call her at 401-278-4578 or e-mail her at irodriguez@dioceseofprovidence.org. **Deadline April 20, 2018.**

We hope you will be able to be with us on April 28, 2018.

Fraternally,

Joseph E. Gadbois
Vice President – Member Engagement
Catholic Financial Life
1100 West Wells Street – Milwaukee, WI 53233
E-mail: joe.gadbois@catholicfinanciallife.org
1-800-927-2547 Ext. 6601





REGISTRATION FORM
41st Project FAITH
Providence College
Ruane Great Room
Providence, Rhode Island
Saturday April 28, 2018 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING IS **APRIL 20, 2018**

Please print clearly and use a separate form for each person attending.

First Name Last Name

Street Address City /Town State Zip Code

Email Phone (s)

Parish Town State

Ministerial Position

(Arch)Diocese Office/Department

Please list any accommodations you may need during your time at this meeting (dietary, accessibility, large print handouts, American Sign Language interpretation (ASL), etc.) **Deadline Registration requesting ASL accommodations is April 13, 2018.** If you prefer feel free to contact our office.

What questions would you like addressed?

Mail or E-mail registration form to:

Irma I. Rodríguez, *Director of Apostolate for People with Disabilities*
1 Cathedral Square
Providence, RI 02903
For questions, contact Irma at 401-278-4578 or email at
irodriguez@dioceseofprovidence.org