



**CATHOLIC
CHARITIES**
Diocese of Cleveland

Providing Help. Creating Hope.



February 2016

Disability Services & Ministries E-Newsletter

Celebrating 50 Years of Serving Persons with Disabilities

1966-2016

#DisabilityServices50years

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Our Staff

Disability Services

7911 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102
(216) 334-2963

Greetings!

Welcome to the February 2016 edition of the Disability Services & Ministries E-Newsletter.

Remember to check our [website](#) for more information and be sure to click on "[News & Events](#)" for more upcoming events. And don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Twitter.

Valentine's Dance!! Friday, February 12

Friday, February 12 - Wear your Red - Wear your Pink!! It's our Valentine's Dance!!!



Have you been looking for something fun to do on a Friday evening? Do you like dancing to music? Do you like meeting new friends?

The monthly dances at OLA/St. Joseph Center may be just the thing you are looking for!! Come and try it out...you will not regret it! We have a fun DJ, who also happens to be the Director of Disability Services - Dennis McNulty!

The dances are for adults ages 16 and over with

Fax (216) 334-2905
Ohio Relay Number (TTY) ~
711

[Dennis C. McNulty](#)

Director

[Marilyn Scott](#)

Program Director

Disability Ministries

2486 West 14th St.

Cleveland, Ohio 44113

(216) 781-5530 Voice/TTY

Fr. Joseph McNulty, Director

Sr. Corita Ambro, CSJ,

Program Director

[E-Mail Disability Ministries](#)

[Terry Hogan](#)

Coordinator Special Religious

Education

Employment & Training

[Autumn Winfield](#), Director

(216) 391-4415 x21

Supported Employment

[Tracee Ingram](#), Vocational

Rehabilitation Coordinator

(216) 426-9870 x13

Summit County

[Tess Flannery](#)

(330) 762-2961 x224

Headstart

[Mary Baran](#)

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disabilities. The cost is only \$3 and you get a pop and a bag of chips, in addition to two hours of entertainment! We also have a dance contest where you can win different prizes each month! It is held the 2nd Friday of the month from 7-9pm at OLA/St. Joseph Center, 2346 W. 14th St., Cleveland, OH 44113 - in Tremont!

Check out our [flyer](#) for 2016 Dates!

March is Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month

Every year we celebrate DD Awareness during the month of March. How will you choose to bring awareness this year?

The [Public Images Network](#), and its parent organization, Ohio Public Images, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, were established in 1983 to promote positive awareness of people with developmental disabilities...

Ohio Public Images and the Public Images Network were organized to create effective awareness materials that can be shared by hundreds of organizations that have a similar mission.



Ohio Public Images [2016 awareness campaign](#) is "What's Your Story?" and is designed to capture the interests, abilities and personalities of those we support. Through each story, we can educate the community on how we are all connected.

Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness & Advocacy Day - March 8 in Columbus

The DD Advocacy and Awareness Day is an annual event that has taken place for over a decade at The Ohio Statehouse in March which is DD Awareness Month. The purpose of this event is to educate and empower people with developmental disabilities, their family members and other community allies to come together on a single day to

[Community Respite](#)

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advocate policy issues which impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Read more on the DD Awareness & Advocacy Day [website](#) or find them on [Facebook](#).

Celebrating 50 Years of Disability Services

#DisabilityServices50years

We continue to celebrate 50 Years of providing programs for persons with disabilities. All of the stories we share throughout the year will be collected in one place on our website in an [ongoing blog](#).

Please send your stories & pictures to [Marilyn Scott](#) with "50 Years" in the subject field. Share them on our Facebook or Twitter pages using the hashtag #DisabilityServices50years

Fr. Joseph Goebel, our first Director 1966-1972

When Disability Services first began in 1966, we were known as the Apostolate for the Mentally Retarded. The name has changed over the years to reflect the times and the removal of the words "mentally retarded". In addition to the different names we've had, we've also had many different Directors. Throughout the year, we'll share with you a bit about each of these Directors.

Our first Director was Fr. Joseph Goebel. He served from 1966-1972. In addition to being our first director, he served two 4-year terms on the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation (now CCBDD), was on the Governor's advisory council for disabilities, and was the first vice-president of the "National" Apostolate for the Mentally Retarded.

Fr. Goebel was responsible for beginning so many of our programs, including Camp Happiness with Bill Tighe (who will definitely get his own post!). He was also chaplain at Rose-Mary Center!

The pictures below show a few articles we found in some photo albums given to us by Pearl Cahoon, another who will get her very own post! She was the long time secretary,

and more, including being the Interim Director of the Apostolate! The Apostolate could not have survived without Pearl!



GIFT FROM DIVOT DIGGERS — Leo Kelly (right) of the Divot Diggers organization presents the keys for a minibus to Rev. Fr. Joseph Goebel, director of the St. Joseph Center for Retarded Children, 2346 W. 14th St. It is the

15th station wagon donated to charitable groups by the Divot Diggers. Between Father Goebel and Kelly is I. S. (Nig) Ross, who annually spearheads the fund-raising drives by the civic-minded sportsmen's club.

WE HEAR

FATHER JOSEPH A. GOEBEL, director of the diocesan Department of Mental Retardation, was installed for a second four-year term on the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation. Installed with him was new member Dr. Edwin J. Bruns, assistant dean of education at Cleveland State University. Judge Alvin I. Krenzler of the Ohio Court of Appeals was installing officer.



Gilligan Picks Father Goebel

Ohio Gov. John J. Gilligan has named the Rev. Joseph A. Goebel, director of the department of mental retardation for Cleveland Catholic Diocese, to the state's planning and advisory council for development disabilities.

Father Goebel is one of two Cuyahoga county residents appointed to the board. The advisory council determines distribution of federal funds to programs which benefit the handicapped.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSE BULLETIN, AUGUST 16, 1975 — 3

National award given to Fr. Goebel

Father Joseph A. Goebel, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Madison, Wednesday received national recognition for his significant contributions to the field of mental retardation.

The award was presented by the National Apostolate for the Mentally Retarded, which is meeting at Borronico this week. About 150 persons attended the conference from around the U.S.

Father Goebel was the first director of the diocesan Apostolate for the Mentally Retarded. He served from 1968 to 1972.

Before becoming head of the diocese's first diocesan Apostolate office, Father Goebel was Bishop Clarence G. Isseman's representative for the welfare of Retarded children.

His contributions to the mentally retarded were also carried out as he served two four year terms on the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation. He was first national vice-president of the Apostolate for the Mentally Retarded in 1968, when the organization was founded.

Besides being diocesan Apostolate director he was responsible for initiating most of the office's program, including Camp Happiness for the mentally retarded, a special education OCD center, an inner city camp and scholarships for those attending St. Joseph Center for Retarded.

He was also chaplain at Rose-Mary Center for Handicapped Children.

The conference, which opened Monday evening, featured Archbishop John Roach, of St. Paul, Minnesota, who is also episcopal moderator of NAMB. Bishop James A. Hickey and Mayor Ralph J. Perk welcomed participants.

Father Henri Bisceccari, professor at the Graduate Catechetical Institute, in Paris, France, and author of "Catechetical Pedagogy of the Mentally Deficient Child, talked about the sacraments in relation to the mentally retarded.

He insisted that "Holiness is for everyone" despite the disapproval of some who say that mentally retarded children "don't need sacraments."

He said: "The sacraments are for all men; the mentally retarded are men, therefore, the sacraments are for them, too." He indicated that the opportunity and preparation for the sacraments, especially Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist, should be offered all Christians.

Many parents, he added, shy away from seeking the sacraments for their child for many reasons—all bad. Some prefer not to subject their child to the rituals of church-goers. Others wonder just how much importance reception of a sacrament could be for

someone "who cannot understand its real meaning." Another group says, "Why bother?"

There's no need to delay the sacraments for the mentally retarded, he said. "It can be just as helpful to them as any other person, because through it one can find Christ and love and grace."

He cited the new attitude of the Church as one of opening up the Church and sacraments to the mentally retarded.

Sacraments, he noted, afford the mentally retarded the opportunity to form a personal relationship with God, to explore spiritual realities; and to gain a sense of commitment to the spiritual realm. He said the mentally retarded are more capable and express more concern for the sacraments than many "normal" Catholics who think the sacraments "childish and ludicrous."

The national conference closed Thursday. The agenda delved into practical methods of teaching the sacraments, theological perspectives, marriage counseling for the retarded, and reconciliation as well as treatment of the retarded in minority groups.



**DID YOU KNOW ABOUT...
Catholic Charities Community
Respite???**

Community Respite is based out of Camp Christopher but uses Northeast Ohio as a playground for fun and exploration. The program was designed on the belief that inclusion in community activities allows an individual to learn

from personal observations and interactions instead of on those of other people. Community Respite offers a wide variety of travel opportunities and social gatherings throughout the year. To learn more check out their [website](#) or [email Tess Flannery](#) or call her at (330) 762-2961.

Upcoming Camp Fair / Camp Happiness

Saturday, February 27 - Summer & Beyond

Sponsored by the Educational Service Center (ESC), this camp fair is from 10am to 1pm at ESC offices at 6393 Oaktree Blvd., Independence, OH 44131. Click [here for a flyer](#).

Come learn more about Camp Happiness!!

Camp Happiness is a six-week summer day camp for children and young adults, ages 5-21, with cognitive disabilities. Camp is from June 20 - July 29, 2016. We have 3 locations - Parma, Lakewood & Wickliffe. Our staff make sure that the campers have a fun and adventurous summer, with field trips, swimming, arts & crafts and lots of singing! If you are interested in learning more, come see us at this upcoming camp fair or check our [website](#).

Sincerely,

Dennis McNulty & Marilyn Scott
Catholic Charities Disability Services