January 2015

Disability Services & Ministries E-Newsletter
49 Years of Serving Persons with Disabilities
1966-2015

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Our Staff
Disability Services
7911 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102
(216) 334-2963
Fax (216) 334-2905
Ohio Relay Number (TTY) ~ 711
Dennis C. McNulty

Dear Samantha,

Happy New Year! And welcome to our January edition of the Disability Services & Ministries E-Newsletter.

Remember to check our website for more information about Disability Services & Ministries and be sure to click on "News & Events" for more upcoming events.

God Bless You!

New E-Mail Addresses

Please update your records with our new email and contact us with any questions.

New emails are:
Dennis McNulty - dmcnulty@ccdocle.org
Marilyn Scott - mjscott@ccdocle.org

Upcoming Dances...

Friday, January 23 at Rose-Mary Center
Friday, February 13 at OLA/St. Joseph Center

Info You Need
Age - Adults, 16 & Over, with disabilities
Location - OLA/St. Joseph Center, 2346 W. 14th, Cleveland 44113
Time - 7pm to 9pm
Cost - $3 for dancers / Staff & Caregivers are Free
Everyone receives pop and chips

***Bring your ID or wear a name-tag with your
Eucharistic Ministers

We are looking for persons with developmental disabilities (DD) who are Eucharistic Ministers or are interested in becoming one. If you are already one, please let us know. We are in need of Eucharistic Ministers at our annual Journey to Bethlehem Mass in December and would love to have you participate.

If you are a person with DD who is interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister, first contact your Pastor. Your Pastor has to approve you as a Eucharistic Minister. The training can be done through the Diocese of Cleveland and we would offer further training as needed. Contact us for details - 216-334-2963 or mjscott@ccdocle.org

"Can Do Like You"

Ohio Public Images and the Public Images Network were organized to help create positive images of people with developmental disabilities. This year's theme "Can Do Like You" encourages us to focus on the talents and abilities of people and how they make a difference in our community.

Plan Ahead! March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Though we celebrate people with disabilities all year long, we are encouraged to spread awareness during the month of March. Check out Public Images Network to learn how you can spread awareness.

Accomplishments, Challenges & Goals

Going into the New Year, we took an opportunity to look back over 2014 at our accomplishments and challenges. There were
many accomplishments.

A few include:

- Camp Happiness was accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). ACA only accredits camps who provide quality services.
- The Office of Disability Ministries coordinates 15 interpreted Masses for the Deaf in our Diocese each weekend.
- Sr Corita Ambro, CSJ celebrated her 60th anniversary as a member of the Congregation of St Joseph. She has served Catholic Charities Disability Ministry almost 45 years.
- Catholic Charities Disability Services & Ministries held their 30th Annual Journey to Bethlehem Liturgy and the Saturday Continuing Adult Education program (CAEP) began its 25th year of providing educational and social skill building for adults with developmental disabilities.
- Fr, Joe McNulty, Director of Catholic Charities Disability Ministry was asked by the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities (NCPD) to be a member of the new Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

But 2014 also had its challenges:

- While preparing for the accreditation for Camp Happiness, we had to still provide the quality programming we are known for.
- The needs of parishes and the various Catholic Charities programs are calling for greater support.
- Disability Services & Ministries has had a large mailing list that has grown since the 1980's. The challenge, in 2014, was to transition to an electronic version of the newsletter while not excluding those who do not have access to computers.
- An additional challenge was to integrate newer modes of communication via social media.

Going into 2015, we realize some of 2014's challenges will continue or will turn into future goals. New challenges include: programmatic changes to our summer program and hiring qualified staff is always a challenge when operating seasonal programs but even more so in 2015 since we are expecting a large turnover of staff.

Our goals for 2015 include turning some of our 2014 challenges into goals, but also:

- To collaborate with Catholic Charities Employment and Training Services to expand employment for persons
with disabilities.

- To provide a successful National Deaf Conference for The International Catholic Deaf Committee.

We are looking forward to 2015 and all that it will bring, challenges and all!!

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**Happy Birthday Sr. Corita**

On Wednesday, January 14, Sr. Corita Ambro celebrated her 80th birthday! We hope you had a wonderful day filled with many blessings and that you were surrounded by those you love!

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**Did you Know**

It is often attitudinal barriers that affect everyday life for people with developmental disabilities. Attitudes can keep us from understanding the value of every person and what he or she offers. ([Public Images Network](#))

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**Thank You!**

Thank you to those who made a Christmas donation to Disability Services & Ministries in December. Your support will continue and strengthen our many programs. Many of the families we serve come from below the poverty level. These people will especially benefit because of your kindness. Your donation was much appreciated.

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_Sincerely,_

Dennis McNulty & Marilyn Scott

Catholic Charities Disability Services