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DESERT PILGRIMAGE

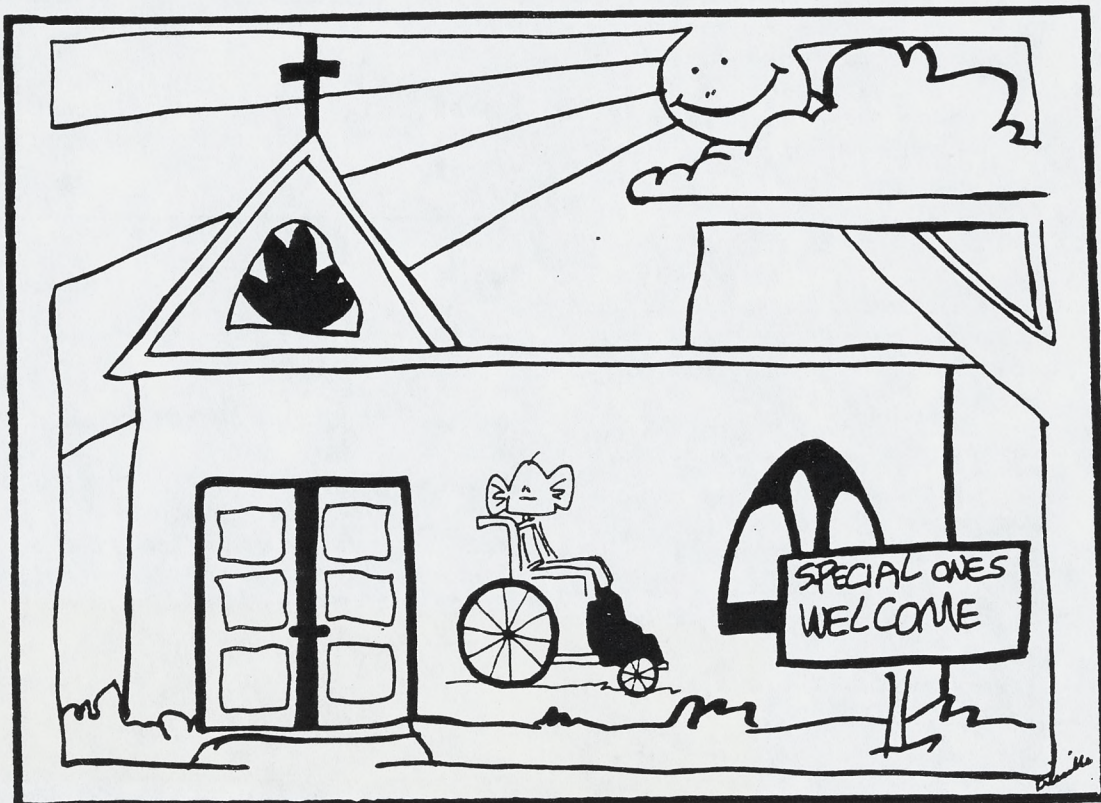


*Pilgrim, there is no pathway,
you make that path.*

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY AND FOR THE DISABLED.....PHOENIX, ARIZONA
Volume 11, Edition 1.....February thru April, 1986

The Handicapped:

How To Show We CARE !!!



(See articles on workshops, retreats and other activities we are doing.)

F R O M



Fr. Bob Wicht, S.D.P.

It seems that we have just finished the Christmas season and we are already looking ahead to Lent. From focusing on the wood of the crib, we must begin to focus on the wood of the Cross. During Lent we practice the asceticism of prayer, fasting and penance.

Asceticism comes from a Greek word that originally meant to make a work of art, to make something beautiful. It eventually took on the meaning to exercise, to discipline the body for an athletic event. It seems to me that both meanings can fit into our understanding of Lent. Only God can make us into a work of art; only God can shape us in something beautiful but we must do the exercise. We must discipline ourselves so that God may transform us into this beautiful work of art that He has meant us to be.

So Lent is not a time of self-punishment or even a season in which we can make ourselves holy (only God can do that). Lent is a time for us to concentrate on the disciplines of prayer, fasting and penance that are so very necessary in our lives if we are to keep ourselves open to the transforming power of the Resurrection. Although this positive type of discipline should be a part of our lives as Christians, Lent is a special time of the liturgical year to make more concrete our need for exercise to complete the running course with St. Paul (Phil.3: 13-14).

Let us then use this season of Lent effectively so that the powerful feast of Easter, the Resurrection, can become a living reality in our lives. The power of the Spirit that can transform death into life can shape us into that work of art that God wants if only we do the exercise necessary to open ourselves to that Spirit.

Easter is ...



A SONG FOR JEFF

*My child how I wish you
the warmth of a kiss
And somersaults, beachballs and
breezes that whisper
Of sweet things like melons
of free things like a dove ...
My child, how I wish you love.*

*My child, how I wish you
sweet dreams and good health
And patience and laughter
oh, I wish you a wealth
Of companions who know you
and see you for yourself ...
My child, how I wish you love.*

*My child, I can't offer
you very much ...
Some warm thoughts, some guidance
and a mother's gentle touch.
I can't offer you wisdom
or college or a girl,
But, my child, I can wish you the world ...
My child, how I wish you the world.*



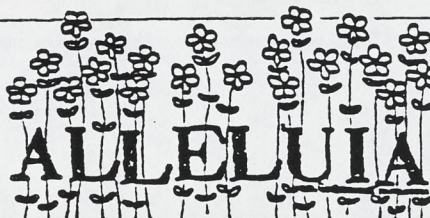
(This poem, written by Gregg Wells, was given to Pat Decker as a Mother's Day gift. Pat's son, Jeff, is in the Special Ed program at St. Timothy's.)

Letters

Office of Special Services.

On behalf of our son, who is mentally handicapped, my wife and I wish to thank you and your staff for the delightful dance and supper which you sponsored at St. Thomas the Apostle a few weeks ago. This is the first social event our son has attended in a year. Truly these are forgotten people in this State. Will you please put us on the "Desert Pilgrimage" mailing list for newsletter, events, needs, etc.

God Bless You!
Jim and Janet Marth



SPECIAL MINISTRY WITH HANDICAPPED

RETREAT



Special To God, Special To Us

This year's retreat for Special Religious Education students will be held at Emmanuel Pines, Prescott, AZ, on April 25, 26, & 27th. This retreat will center around the theme, "Creation", and will once again be directed by Fr. Michael O'Grady. The cost will be \$35 for the weekend, although we don't want the cost to keep you away.

We are looking for men and women to serve as assistants to a group of 3 retreatants on this retreat. Your responsibility will be to assist the entire weekend for all activities, and to supervise and model behavior. To work with the mentally handicapped student just takes a special kind of willingness to love and understand and time to be a friend. The weekend will be a time of fellowship and prayer for all persons participating.

For applications and more information call Marian Norris, 831-0196 or Phyllis Vogelsang, 257-0030.

Religious Education classes for deaf students are being held at St. Helen's Church on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. These classes are for all deaf students in the Northwest area. Call Judy Loftus, 978-1241.

RETREATS ARE SPECIAL

RETREATS ARE AN ESCAPE SO AS TO FACE TROUBLES AGAIN WHEN THE RETREAT IS OVER.

- S - simple - The objectives are clear and simple.
- P - practical - Topics can be used in everyday life.
- E - expressive - We are able to express our own differences.
- C - concrete - They are something we are able to see and get in touch with.
- I - individually made to order - They are made for us.
- A - involvement - Each person is actively involved.
- L - loaded with love - St. Paul's: Love is kind and patient.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



WHAT CAN A CHURCH DO ?

This office is preparing a workshop with some guidelines for parishes to follow for accessibility and how to bring the disabled person into the full liturgical community. The workshops will start in March in different Vicariates.

(The following are excerpts on the sacraments for developmentally disabled persons as written by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Archbishop of Chicago. Complete copies of ACCESS TO THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION AND RECONCILIATION FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PERSONS can be ordered from Liturgy Training Publication, 1800 North Hermitage, Chicago, IL 60622)

Developmentally disabled persons often live in institutions, some in residential settings in our neighborhoods. Others remain at home with their families. Many go to school or work and they participate in sports and recreation. Similarly, although their participation in parish life would most likely have been passive in the past, now they are to be welcomed as full members of the parish and, in particular, the liturgical assembly.

The Liturgical Assembly

The liturgical assembly is the gathering of all the members of the local parish who stand before the Father, offering thanksgiving and praise. This gathering is always in the process of growth -- growth in faith in God and in respect for persons. One challenge to the parish is to discern and decide why and how to assimilate developmentally disabled people into its life through the sacraments.

The parish's liturgical life provides a dynamic context which can help them, regardless of age, to break out of isolation and discover others as believers. It provides an opportunity to help them overcome fear of others. If families cannot bring all of their members to the parish church, where can they bring them? If each person does not have a place before the table of the Word of God and the table of the Bread of God, where is there a place? To provide an appropriate atmosphere of dignity and reverence for worship requires leadership, common sense, and a strong sense of respect for the assembly as well as for each disabled person.

Confirmation

"In Confirmation we are more intimately joined to the Church and endowed by the Holy Spirit with special strength." (Constitution on the Church, #11)

Developmentally disabled persons, who have been baptized, are not passive members of the Church. They are full members who belong and contribute according to their capacity. A child who is profoundly disabled and cannot speak or move can still contribute to those around him or her by a loving presence. Each is confirmed as a member according to his/her capacity. In the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation, the person's age is to be respected. Developmentally disabled adults ordinarily should be confirmed with other adults. If they are baptized as adults or received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, they should normally be confirmed at the same time. (The Easter Vigil is the ideal time for this.)

Eucharist

By what signs can a developmentally disabled person indicate readiness for the Eucharist? They are desire, relationships with people who share faith and prayer, and a sense of the sacred as manifested in behavior. Often these people cannot use words which express their understanding of the difference between ordinary bread and the Bread of God, but they can show that they recognize the difference by their manner, the expression in their eyes, their gestures or the quality of their silence. God's desire to be in communion with the person can be presumed: the person's desire for communion must be awakened and sustained.

Sometimes a person is so disabled that it is difficult for him or her to approach the minister of Communion. Then it is appropriate for Communion to be brought to the person in the pew.

Reconciliation

The sacrament of Reconciliation can be very fruitful in the lives of developmentally disabled persons. Often they have had the experience of being offended by others or of offending others without knowing exactly how this alienation happened. Participation in a celebration of Reconciliation can help them sense a new beginning in these relationships. Such persons frequently are comfortable in parish celebrations of Reconciliation, especially during Advent and Lent. When they approach the priest, if they have poor communication skills, a question which elicits a "yes" or a "no" can be very effective.

Conclusion

By welcoming developmentally disabled people through the waters of Baptism, the oil of anointing in Confirmation, the consecrated Bread and Wine of the Eucharist, and the peace and joy of Reconciliation, the parish builds up the Body of Christ.

(Our Communion, Our Peace, Our Promise, pastoral letter on the liturgy by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Chicago, 1984.)

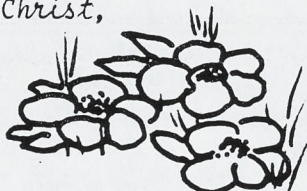
WHERE TO LOOK FOR SERVICES

ADAPTIVE TOY WORKSHOP

A four hour class on the construction and use of remote control switches for the operation of toys and other electric recreation equipment is being offered to parents and/or siblings of DD children on Saturday, March 8 from 9:00-1:00 p.m. It will be held at ATPP, 3727 E. McDowell RD, Building J. The instructor will be Steven Shores, Recreation Therapist from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. The class will familiarize participants with the various types and uses of remote control switches, and assist the participant in the actual construction of a variety of remote control switches and toy modifications. The cost will be about \$25 for materials. Registration is limited. Pre-registration by February 15. Call Steven at 275-7821 Ext. 354.

*You are new with a newness
of the living risen Christ,
Arise!*

*The winter is past,
It is your Spring!*



-Sister Iva Halbur, O.S.F.

Phoenix, Et. Al.

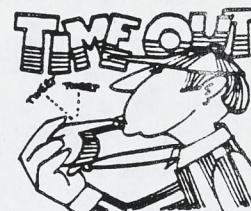
..... A Day in the Park

The Arizona Multi-Housing Association is sponsoring A Day in the Park, benefiting the Arizona Recreation Center for the Handicapped, (ARCH). This event will take place on March 22, 1986, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Encanto Park, 15th Ave. and Encanto, Southeast corner. There will be a sweepstakes drawing, food, softball, picnic, booths, door prizes, beer, basketball, clowns, and many more fun activities. It is open to all of Phoenix and friends. So come out and help support ARCH.

LIVE-IN COMPANION NEEDED

Robert Szalkowski is looking for a live-in companion to live with him. He is 34 years and 150 pounds. Experience is asked. call Office of Special Services, 257-0030

41st FAAD Basketball Tournament



The Phoenix Association of the Deaf, Inc. is the host club for the 1986 FAAD Basketball Tournament. It will be held at the PDSO Sportsdome, 1935 W. Hayward Ave. The tournament will run from March 6th thru the 8th. For more information write to: Donald Kitson, General Chairman, PO Box 37202, Phoenix, AZ 85069.

WHEEL CHAIR REPAIRS AND ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

Is your wheelchair in need of repair? Then call Wayne Steele, A.E.T., 3010 W. Camelback, No. 114, phone 242-3211. Wayne also has used wheelchairs, both manual and electric for sale. in price ranges from \$125 to \$225 for a manual and \$750 to \$1,300 for an electric one.

TO ALL PACEMAKER OWNERS

There will be a Pacemaker Seminar on February 7, 1986 at St. Lukes's Hospital. If you wear a pacemaker and want to attend, please call Eve Gray, 277-7849 or Nora Kriehn, 252-2414. You can bring your spouse or a friend, however, you must make reservations due to limited space

Río Salado Community College welcomes you to class !

Are you homebound? Participate in live college classes from your home, hospital bed or convalescent center by simply using your phone. They welcome homebound care givers, blind/print handicapped persons, persons with special needs. Call now for the Spring sessions. 256-7722 X 204. The Homebound Project uses the SUNDIAL Network, RSCC's audio teleconferencing to reach students throughout the Valley.

Frances Hatcher has an amigo with a lift for a car for sale. It has a new battery. Call 242-3692.



PIGRIMS MAKING NEWS...

Now that the holidays are over and most of the New Year's resolutions are already broken, we can get on with the new year. A year that promises to be a busy year. Our key word for 1986 is AWARENESS. Awareness of the needs of disabled persons - awareness to effect attitude changes within the structure of our Church and our community. Some programs towards this goal are several clergy awareness seminars, parish council workshops, Kids On the Block, our handicapped awareness program in the elementary schools, and the continuation of handicapped speakers in the schools.

Although it has been several months since our Harvest Ball, this is our first chance to report on its' success. We want to thank Mrs. Rochelle Taylor, our chairperson, and all her chairpersons who showed they cared. They did a super job and our equipment fund benefits royally from their hard work. The demands for medical aids and services is increasing every year.

Volunteers are important people. Our office has been blessed with some important people who have been helping us on a weekly basis, Willie Dodt and Lynn Martinka. Norma Trathen has given of her time also and presently is recovering from an illness that put her in the hospital for a spell.

I am still looking for adult volunteers for Kids On the Block who would like to be a part of our handicapped awareness going out to the elementary schools. Experience as a puppeteer is not necessary, or even a knowledge of disabilities. All that is needed is creativity and a desire to give a few hours to an educational and fun program. You can call my office, 257-0030, to find out more about the program.

Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Two new tapes we have just received permission to record and send out are "God In The Dock - Essays on Theology and Ethics". The two essays recorded are "The Trouble with 'X'" and "What Are We to Make of Jesus Christ?" You can call our office if you wish these tapes sent to you. If you know of anyone who would like to be on our cassette mailing list, call or write us. The CATHOLIC SUN is being sent out to all our subscribers regularly.

Publications

THEIR WORLD, an informational magazine from the Foundation for Children With Learning Disabilities (FCLD). It contains a section called a "Resourceful Parent's Guide" which was designed to provide basic information on a national and state level about agencies and resources to help parents find help for LD children. No subscription or mailing fees. Write: FCLD, 99 Park Ave., New York, NY10016

THANKS BE TO GOD - THE LIFE OF ST. JOSEPH BENEDICT COTTOLENGO. A children's book, written and illustrated by mentally retarded persons - believed to be the first such publication of its kind. Students of the Marian Center for Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Handicapped produced the 67 page, easy-to-read book which tells the story of a saint who dedicated his life to serving the poor, the sick and the handicapped. The book is available for \$5.50 pp from Marian Center Services, Inc., 15701 N.W. 37th Ave., Opa-Locka, FL 33054-6397

REPORT ON CONSULTATION ON HUMANITY AND WHOLENESS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. 1982 142 pp. Report of a consultation held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 23-29, November, 1981. Contains personal stories, basic papers, meditations and Bible studies. Write: The Office of Family Education, World Council of Churches, 150 route de Ferney, P.O. Box 66, 1211 Geneva, 20, Switzerland. Free for writing.

LIFE TO THE FULL, Guidelines, No. 2; love, marriage and justice in the lives of mentally handicapped people; a collection of 6 articles edited by Fr. David Wilson; published by St. Joseph Centre, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4TY England; Sept. 1981. Write publisher.

ESPECIALLY GRANDPARENTS a newsletter now available for grandparents of developmentally disabled children. For a free subscription, Especially Grandparents, King County ARC 2230 Eighth Ave., Seattle, WA 98121

The spirit is growing.

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

Gramm-Rudman Act

We are faced with as serious a threat from an appropriations standpoint as has ever been witnessed. The so-called "Gramm-Rudman Amendment" could lead to a near shut-down of the federal fiscal role in special education.

Background

On October 9, the U.S. Senate passed, as part of legislation to raise the national debt ceiling, the Gramm-Rudman "balanced budget" amendment, named after its two primary sponsors, U.S. Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX) and U.S. Senator Warren Rudman (R-NH). A conference has now commenced between the House and Senate on this legislation. The House came to this conference with no similar proposal.

The purpose of this legislation is straightforward enough, namely, to balance the federal budget by 1991. This would be accomplished by the establishment in statute of annual budget reduction targets (i.e., FY 1986 — \$180 billion, FY 1987 — \$144 billion, FY 1988 — \$108 billion, FY 1989 — \$72 billion, FY 1990 — \$36 billion and FY 1991 — 0). The Congress would be required to meet these targets each year. If the Congress does not, the President is given sweeping powers (in what many consider to be potentially the most dramatic surrender of legislative power in American history) to meet these reduction targets by his own action.

The implications for our programs are far more serious than even the Gramm-Latta budget reconciliation measure of 1981. Unfortunately, only some people and programs would bear the burden of these cuts. Social Security, interest on the national debt, 66 percent of the defense budget and any other programs with contract commitments would be exempt. Less than half the federal budget would, in effect, be available for cuts. Further, nothing in Gramm-Rudman allows for revenue raising; in fact, the mechanisms of Gramm-Rudman discourage revenue raising, i.e., new taxes.

After working one's way through all the complexities and budgetary jargon of Gramm-Rudman, the hard reality for federal programs for the education of handicapped children is:

(1) "Worse case scenario." As Gramm-Rudman is currently written, the Education of the Handicapped Act (EHA), including P.L. 94-142,

would be cut in actual appropriations by a whopping 67 percent. Moreover, this 67 percent reduction could occur as early as the next school year.

(2) "Best case scenario." EHA, including P.L. 94-142, would be cut five percent per year for the next five years (as would other programs not exempted from the cuts).

It should be noted that P.L. 94-142 took a substantial cut in real dollars commencing in 1981 when actual appropriations dropped from a steady 12 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure (NAPPE) to 7 percent of NAPPE. We have been struggling to return to a 12 percent factor since that time and are on the verge of reaching 10 percent.

It should be further noted that since well over 50 percent of the total federal budget is excluded from the budget knife under the terms of Gramm-Rudman, programs such as the EHA are slated for dramatically undue hardship. The disabled, the poor, and the disadvantaged become primary targets under Gramm-Rudman. Any budget cuts should be equally shared across all federal programs.

Action Needed

Immediately communicate with all members of the House and Senate in your state, advising that the best estimates indicate that approval of the Gramm-Rudman Amendment means the possibility of either scenario (1) or (2). Advise that either scenario would cause serious damage to state and local special education programs that are based upon a federal mandate to appropriately serve all handicapped children as well as vital federal support programs such as personnel preparation, early childhood education, research, transition, etc. Please place particular emphasis upon members in your state who are House/Senate conferees.

Also, please ask for a response from each of them:

- Do they want either of these reductions to occur?
- Do they have information that contradicts our own?
- What do they intend to do about this situation?

Note: Our estimates were developed in conjunction with the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), the national coalition of education associations of which CEC is a leading member.

This Legislative Alert was taken from The Arizona Federation Newsletter, The Council for Exceptional Children. The importance of this piece of legislation is something we feel should be of concern to anyone interested in special education, and deserves some kind of action on your part if we are to continue to move forward in special education. Contact your House and Senate conferees.



OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES
FOR THE HANDICAPPED
400 E Monroe
Phoenix, AZ 85004



The Diocesan Office of Special Services for Persons with Disabilities is here to serve you. Anyone wishing to receive our newsletter or if you would like to send in articles concerning disabled persons, please send to:

DESERT PILGRIMAGE
400 E. MONROE ST.
PHOENIX, AZ 85004

We are quarterly and the deadline for the next issue will be April 7th. Phone 257-0030

DIRECTOR - Rev. Robert Wicht, S.D.S.
COOR. HC PROGRAMS - Phyllis Vogelsang
COOR. DEAF SERVICES - Deacon Tom Anselmo

JOB TITLE: CHAIRPERSON - HARVEST BALL
DUTIES: OVERSEE ALL COMMITTEES PUTTING DANCE TOGETHER.
TIME: HOURS ARE SET BY THE CHAIRPERSON
QUALIFICATIONS: GOOD STEWARDS OF TIME, TALENT, FAITH, ENERGY, LOVE.
COMPENSATION: JOY OF SERVING GOD AND MAN, PLUS "OUT OF THIS WORLD" BENEFITS.
CONTACT: OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES, 257-0030.

(Dance to be held in November, 1986. Preparations must be made early for its success.)-

*Wisdom is knowing what to do,
skill is knowing how to do it,
and virtue is choosing not to.*

DIOCESE OF PHOENIX
OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES
400 E. Monroe
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return requested

Rev. Joe Bruce, S.J.
Campion Center
319 Concord RD
Weston, MA 02193