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Desert Pilgrimage Newsletter, August 1, 1986

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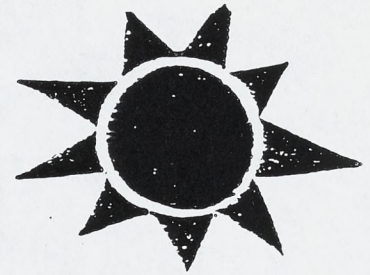
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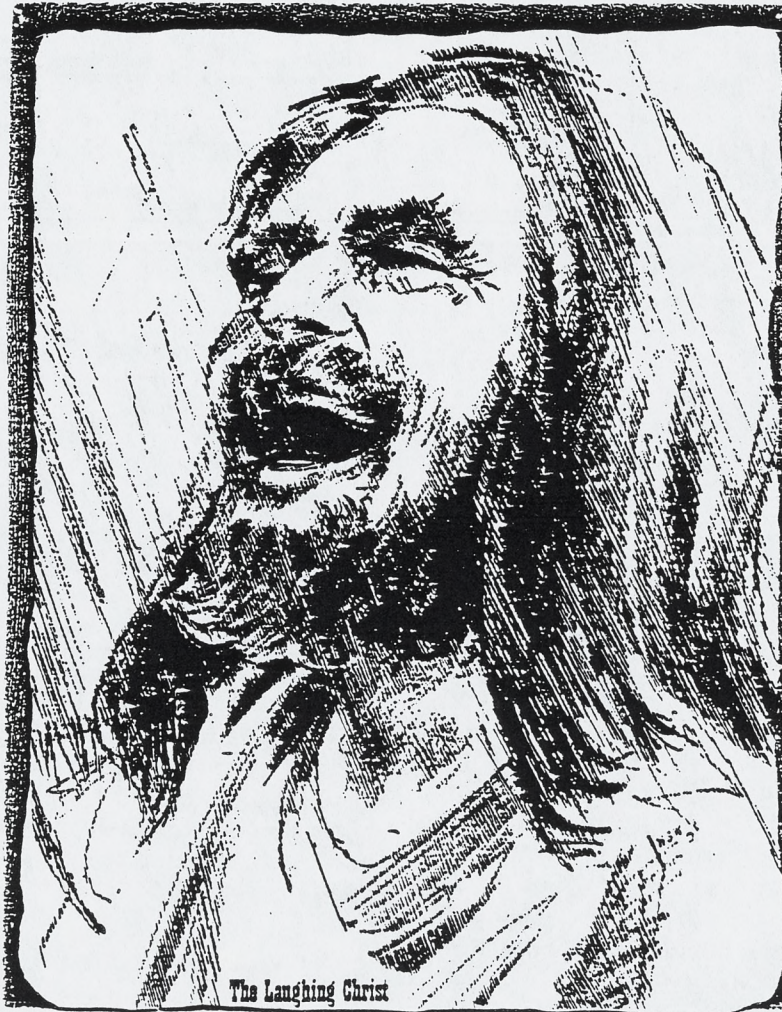


DESERT PILGRIMAGE



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

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY AND FOR THE DISABLED.....PHOENIX, ARIZONA
Volume II, Edition 3.....August thru September, 1986



The Laughing Christ

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven: a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance."
Ecclesiastes 3:4

F R O M



Fr. Bob Nicht, S.D.P.

In the very broadest sense of the word, persons with disabilities are sacrament. If we use Pope Paul VI's meaning of what sacrament is, we can begin to understand what this sacramental reality is. Paul VI defines sacrament as a "reality imbued with the presence of God". Of course this definition is most effectively realized in the Church through its life in the seven sacraments. But with this broad understanding of sacrament, we can begin to see the presence of God expressed all around us. In this sense of sacrament, what then is the "presence of God" that persons with disabilities give to the Church as members. Persons with disabilities, whether the disability be mental or physical, remind us as Church, that we stand before our God "naked". At the very core of our being we depend on God for our life. All that we have is gift. We do not control our lives, but at the very core of our existence, God is the Lover who sustains and loves us. We are totally dependent on this God who has loved us into existence. We are truly the "poor of spirit" because whatever we are or have, it is all gift from God.

This does not mean that persons with disabilities are once again separated and apart from the Christian community. We must look at this sacramentality in the symbol of the Church as the Body of Christ. Each one of us has different functions and different gifts to present to the Church. No one of us can be totally Christ to the world by ourselves. We need each other to remind ourselves about different facets of our christian life that must grow in us whether it be humility, love, service, praying, poverty of spirit, etc. It is this last dimension that persons with disabilities present to the community if they ground themselves in God. So often we define ourselves by our intelligence, beauty, or physical stamina rather than who we are before God. We are totally dependent on God. It is the person with disabilities that can remind us how fragile we are. That at any moment the intelligence, the beauty, the physical stamina or whatever we define ourselves as can be taken away. And then we stand "naked" before

God and must let God define who we are before Him.

O yes! persons with disabilities need the Church, but there is another side to that coin. It is in this sacramental reality that of total dependence on God that the Church needs persons with disabilities to be a total community. By its very definition of "sacrament", it can not be hidden it must be visible. It then becomes a spiritual responsibility on persons with disabilities not to remain hidden. The Church needs them to stand before all of us as a reminder that we are totally dependent on God - we are truly the "poor of God". And therefore, the demand to be recognized as full members of the Church cannot be just for personal growth. It must be recognized by persons with disabilities and the Church that this demand arises from a real function within the Church community. Persons with disabilities are a real gift and sacrament is the life of the Church.

WHO'S RETARDED??????????????

YOU ARE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!AND SO AM I!!!!!!!!!!!!

Are you as tall as you would like to be?
I'm not! I'm retarded in height.

Can you do your math better than anyone else?
I can't! I'm retarded in math.

Can you always win a race? I can't!
I'm retarded because I don't have super speed and agility.

Can you play the piano better than anyone else?
I can't! I'm retarded in exceptional musical skill.

Do you call people "retards"?
Then you're retarded in social skills!

When you have learned that everyone is retarded when compared to someone with more ability, no matter what that ability might be, then you'll understand the true meaning of retardation. Retarded is a word that is used much too often.

BE CAREFUL who you call "retards". It may reflect on you!

Source: Unknown

SPECIAL MINISTRY WITH HANDICAPPED

special religious education workshop

Special Religious Education is for children, youth and adults who because of their disability cannot receive religious instruction through the regular parish catechetical programs. Learning centers are especially adapted to meet their needs, classes are smaller, lessons and learning experiences are individualized, and Special Religious Education Catechists are trained to provide all the necessary adaptations.

For this reason, a Special Religious Education workshop to help prepare Special Religious Education Catechists is being offered on Saturday, September 20, 1986 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Ramada Inn, on I-10 off Sunland Gin RD. The cost is \$10 which includes registration and a buffet luncheon.

Sr. Sheila Haskett, O.S.F., who has assimilated many teaching manuals for Special Religious Education, will be our workshop leader. Sr. Sheila is associate director of religious education/special education for the Diocese of Wheeling, Charleston, West Virginia and editor of the NAMRP Quarterly, (National Apostolate With Mentally Retarded Persons). Some of the components of the workshop will be a hands on-how to teach by showing, resources, sacraments addressed and how to incorporate students into paraliturgical liturgies.

Reservations can be made by contacting Phyllis Vogelsang at 257-0030, Phoenix or Agnes Bertram, 1-800-621-2631, Tucson.

Catholics host joyful Project Renewal

The developmentally disabled were the guests of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church during a special celebration on Saturday, June 7th. The day brought forth a full range of emotions for those involved as the guests were treated to an honorary Mass, Bible study and luncheon. Project Renewal was a combined effort of many dedicated parishioners, like Bob and Mary Ann DiDomenico. The DiDomenicos kicked off the 10:30 a.m. Bible study session with readings from John, Chapter 18 "Jesus Is King." The guests wore crowns bearing Jesus' promise, "I Am A King's Kid." At Mass, Rev. Hoorman, the pastor, told the visitors, "You are special. You are not handicapped. You are handicapable. People are handicapped when they are unkind and uncharitable." It was a memorable day for the community's developmentally disabled citizen.



*A retreat weekend for
the physically handicapped.*

Applications are now being accepted for a Physically Handicapped Retreat. This year's retreat will be held at the Franciscan Renewal Center, 5802 E. Lincoln Drive, on October 3,4,5th. The theme for the retreat is "Called to Respond", given by Mr. Joseph Chamberlin, M.A. Mr. Chamberlin is field coordinator for the Baltimore archdiocese's Division of Collegial Services and a consultant for the Ministry Formation Programs in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Our cost this year is \$50 and it is open to men and women. The weekend is a time of fellowship and prayer for all persons participating. We are in need of assistants and a nurse to share the weekend with a physically disabled person. Applications are in this newsletter or you can call Phyllis or Fr. Bob Wicht, SDS, at 257-0030.

ACTS 3

CHAPTER 3 OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 3 is a group for all physically disabled children and adults, to share, pray and socialize which meets at Christ the King Church on Sundays, from 2-5 p.m., once a month. The next meetings will be August 17 - September 28 October 26 - November 23. Anyone knowing of a physically disabled child or adult that would like to spend time with other physically disabled individuals, call Joe or Fran August, 984-2187 for more information.

MASS OF JOY. THANKSGIVING

FOR HANDICAPPED

Plan now to attend the annual Mass for the disabled which will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 3140 N. 51st Ave. Fr. Robert Wicht, SDS, director of the Office of Special Services for Disabled Persons, will officiate. The date is September 6th, at 10:30 a.m. Luncheon will follow in the parish hall.

The Beatitudes of the Exceptional Child

Jesus loves to hide behind the poor and the little ones. He loves to let come to Him children and those who resemble them. Jesus knows that the poor and the little ones, Jesus knows that children are the ones who allow themselves best to be guided to the knowledge of the Father; Jesus knows that the Revelation of the Love of the Father is more accessible to them and that they cling to it more fully.

Jesus identifies Himself with them in order to draw to our attention those whom we would be inclined to put aside: he does this so that we become more open to the reality of God and of our wounded brother. Jesus loves to choose the "Anawim" of the Father to make them his prophets.

At the sight of the crowds of people who surround him, Jesus sat, his friends drew near and he taught them: "Blessed ... Blessed are you ..." At the sight of the crowds of people who surrounded him, the exceptional child stopped, his friends drew near and he said to them:

- Blessed are you who take time to listen to difficult speech for you help us to know that if we persevere we can be understood.
- Blessed are you who walk with us in public places, and ignore the stares of strangers, for in your companionship we find havens of relaxation.
- Blessed are you who never bid us to "hurry up" and more blessed you who do not snatch our tasks from our hands to do them for us, for often we need time rather than help.
- Blessed are you who stand beside us as we enter new and untried ventures, for our failures will be outweighed by the time when we surprise ourselves and you.
- Blessed are you who ask for our help, for our greatest need is to be needed.
- Blessed are you who help us with the graciousness of Christ Who did not bruise the reed and quench the flax, for often we need the help we cannot ask for.
- Blessed are you when by all these things you assure us that the thing that makes us individuals is not in our peculiar muscles, not in our wounded nervous system, not in our difficulties in learning but in the God-given self which no infirmity can confine.
- Rejoice and be exceedingly glad and know that you give us reassurances that could never be spoken in words, for you deal with us as Christ deals with all His children.

Adaption from NAMR publications 1968

by Andre' Masse, c.s.c.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR SERVICES

ACCESSIBLE HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE

We are looking for persons who are personally in need of accessible housing or if you are knowledgeable of the housing needs of others to help fill out an accessible housing questionnaire. By "accessible housing", we mean either individual houses or apartments.

This is being conducted by Robert Lynch, f.a.i.a., who wants to design apartments for disabled people which are adaptable or adjustable to individual limitations and preferences. The lending institutions won't finance a unique type of housing unless he can prove the need. The proof they want is a significant data base, hence the need for the questionnaire. Even if a person qualifies but does not have a housing problem, he needs to hear from you. Call our office at 257-0030 and we will send you a questionnaire.

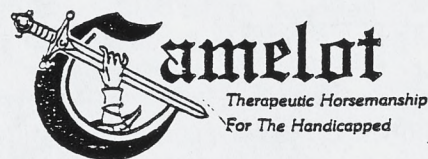
CARES NEWS

C.A.R.E.S., (Central Arizona Regional Epilepsy Society) is sponsoring a Epilepsy Parent Support Group. The group will meet on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Children's Hospital Outpatient Center, 909 E. Brill (1 block south of McDowell off 10th street) in the third floor conference room. The purpose of the group is to provide support, information, experiences and to share resources, programs, books, etc. If you would like further information, please contact Mary Lou Herrgesell, 948-7153 or Janie Frost, 239-4855.

ACTIVITIES FOR FUN & FELLOWSHIP:

Peoria Parks and Recreation Department has been offering recreation programs for Developmentally Disabled children, teens and adults since Feb. 1986. Friday night dances and Saturday morning bowling programs have been outstanding. For some August programs of fun, call the Parks and Recreation office at 979-3755

- August 8 - Rockin' 80's
- August 15 - Salute to the Big Bands
- August 22 - End of Summer Finale



Where heroes



are born....

The Founder and Director of CAMELOT, Eileen Szychowski, is a former rehabilitation counselor and National Park Ranger. She discovered the benefits of horsemanship to minimize her own disability. Students who have passed through the program also serve as teaching assistants. All horses and small animals at CAMELOT are chosen for their intelligence, patience and versatility. If you are interested in becoming a student, volunteer or patron, contact Eileen at 493-8359 or write CAMELOT, 4416 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 327, Scottsdale, AZ 85251.

FREE SERVICES FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE

Southwest Business, Industry and Rehabilitation Association has been funded by the Social Security Administration to provide special services to SSDI beneficiaries through a new program called PRIDE (Project Integrating Disability and Employment). The program seeks to address the concerns of SSDI beneficiaries who are interested in becoming employed again. For further information or to refer an individual to the program, please call Julie Kovarik, Intake/Outreach counselor, at 949-0135



PILGRIMS MAKING NEWS...

With summer being over, (well, not quite), it's time to start thinking about some of our Fall projects coming up. One which is always enjoyable is our Harvest Ball in November. During a recent dance committee meeting, we were wondering whatever happened to past chairpersons. Where are You? We would like to see you again to honor you as part of this 9th annual Harvest Ball. Also, where are you past Desert Pilgrims from as far as 1977?

We know there are many talented arts and crafts people out there. We would love to have any homemade donation for door prizes at our dance. Call Evelyn Orrs, 264-7829, door prize chairperson for pick-up.

I am still looking for men or women who would like to be puppeteers for our KIDS ON THE BLOCK handicapped awareness program. This program is presented to grade school children during the school year.

THE JOY OF GETTING TOGETHER

Getting together in May at Emmanuel Pines for our Special Religious Education Retreat, was truly an enjoyable experience for all who attended the weekend. Our theme, "Creation", was experienced by 35 retreatants and 22 assistants who all learned what you can give to other people by being happy with yourself. God specifically made each person with their own special qualities to serve a purpose.

We are planning another get-together with all the retreatants for a renewal of friendships and just plain fun. Matt and Bill Gannon have offered their home for a pizza party, to be held on Sunday, August 24, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. They are planning some swimming, games and music. We hope to see all retreatants there. Please R.S.V.P. Matt at 279-5625 or Phyllis at 257-0030. Their address is 74 E. Pierson, Phoenix, (south of Camelback Road).

All creations demand greenery of spirit.

Diana Keeland

All Are Invited!



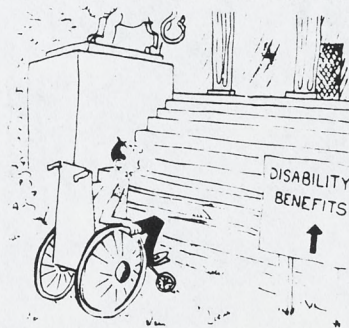
Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien

It is already that time of the year when we are thinking about the 9th annual Harvest Ball for Disabled Persons, sponsored by the Office of Special Services for Disabled Persons.

This year's dance, with a Mexican theme, will be held Saturday, November 15, 1986 at St. Jerome's Church, 10815 N. 35th Avenue, from 7-12 p.m. We are happy to have as our honorary chairperson this year, the Most Reverend Thomas J. O'Brien, Bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix. Music will be provided by Ray Andrade.

Money raised will again benefit our loan program of medical equipment and other services which, in this last year, has provided over \$1,400 in personal services and has lent out equipment to over 100 families a month. The fund is used for the purchase and repair of new and used equipment. This service is solely dependent on your generosity and the dance is our only source of income for this service.

For information on tickets, call Helen Hoza, 246-0590. Tickets are \$5.00 per person.



⊕ APPLICATION ⊕

DESERT PILGRIM RETREAT October 3-4-5, 1986

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

SEX _____ AGE _____ ABLE-BODIED: YES _____ NO _____ IF DISABLED, STATE DISABILITY _____

AREAS OF ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED: DRESSING _____ EATING _____ BATHROOM _____ HELP WALKING _____

(PLEASE CHECK IF NEEDED) ONLY WHEELCHAIR TYPE: MANUAL _____ ELECTRIC _____ NEED TRANSPORTATION: YES _____ NO _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS WITH CARE: _____

ABILITY TO PAY: YES _____ NO _____

EMERGENCY NUMBER: _____ PERSON TO CALL: _____

cut on line and send in top half only.

APPLICANT'S COPY:

Desert Pilgrims Retreat
Franciscan Renewal Center
5802 E. Lincoln DR.
Scottsdale, AZ 85252
948-7460

October 3-4-5, 1986 SPONSORED BY:

Office of Special Services
for the Handicapped
400 E. Monroe
Phoenix, AZ 85004
257-0030
Phyllis Vogelsang

MAIL APPLICATIONS TO OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

COST: \$50.00 Make checks payable to:
Diocese of Phoenix

Check in time: 5:30 p.m. October 3 Friday



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



It hurts less when I laugh

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, or activities, please send to:

DESERT PILGRIMAGE
400 E. Monroe St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

We are quarterly and the deadline for the next issue will be October 15, 1986.

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

Please advise us of any change of address. Returned newsletters cost 25¢ each. Call the office at 257-0030

If you can't see the humor in life's little setbacks, your're probably taking yourself too seriously. Laughter is a gift - one that you must first accept and cultivate within yourself before you can share it with others. Developing a sense of humor is possible - and it begins with adjusting the way you see yourself. The person with a sense of humor also encourages a friend to be optimistic in times of trial by pointing out the bright side of a given situation. Laughter is an effective aid to good health, according to Psycharist Donald W. Black of the University of Iowa. "When you have a hearty laugh, you don't feel pain. The brain's natural pain suppressants are stimulated when someone laughs".

"Man alone suffers so excruciatingly in the world that he was compelled to invent laughter".
Nietzche

DIOCESE OF PHOENIX
OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES
400 E. Monroe
Phoenix, AZ 85004



return requested

REV. JOE BRUCE, S.J.
CAMPION CENTER
319 CONCORD RD.
WESTON, MA. 02193