

May 2019

FAITH...GIFTEDNESS...PARTNERSHIP

Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities - Diocese of Madison

Love, Care and Compassion for Disabled Persons Since 1967

608.821.3050 :: 702 S. High Point Rd, Suite 225, Madison, WI 53719 :: APD@MadisonDiocese.org

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

May you know the blessings of our Risen Lord and Savior during this Easter Season! The calendar proclaims Spring time in our land, but the weather has not seemed to be in concert. Let us keep the farmers and gardeners in our prayers as they prepare for the planting season.

Having remembered and celebrated the passion of Jesus Christ during the recent Holy Week, culminating in the wondrous truth of the Lord's Resurrection, we are given a powerful lesson in the very love we are called to - the self-sacrificing love of our Lord and Savior. During this Easter Season in a very special way, I thank you for the witness that you are to God's presence each day, in the joys, hardships and challenges of daily living, for the faith-filled ways you truly share in the Cross of our Lord. In this light, I wish to share this simple reflection with you:

Has your physical or emotional pain been so intense you thought you couldn't handle anymore? Think of Jesus.

Have you ever been so overwhelmed that you are exhausted? Think of Jesus.

Have you ever felt that God was far away? Think of Jesus.

Have you ever been laughed at or criticized for what you believe? Think of Jesus.

Have you ever felt abandoned? Think of Jesus.

Has your heart ever broken with mourning for what has happened, or for what will never be? Think of Jesus.

Jesus felt all the pain and anguish of his physical and emotional suffering. May we all learn to lift our sufferings and challenges to Jesus, who truly understands us in every way. May God's Divine Mercy and Love bring you hope and peace.

I so look forward to celebrating the annual Apostolate Day at the Tommy Bartlett Show in Lake Delton on August 23, 2019. With high hopes for good weather this year, watch for further information and registration information to come!

Msgr. Larry Bakke, Director

Welcome Bishop Donald Hying!

On April 25th, Pope Francis named Bishop Donald Hying the next bishop of the Diocese of Madison. The youngest of six sons, Bishop Hying was born in West Allis, Wisconsin. Bishop Hying received his bachelor's degree from Marquette University and his master's degree from St. Francis Seminary. On May 20, 1989, Bishop Hying was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He has been an auxiliary bishop in Milwaukee and the bishop of Gary, Indiana. He is fluent in Spanish and English.

Praise God for giving us a holy leader for our diocese!

Picture Right: Bishop Hying receiving a hug from Charlie Yanke who has Down Syndrome and has served on the TV Mass.



Finding Joy in the Liturgical Year of the Church

The seasons and celebrations of the liturgical year are some of the many wonderful gifts that God provides to us through the Church. A few weeks ago, we celebrated Easter, the source and summit of Christian life and the liturgical year. In preparation for Easter, we experience the season of Lent, a period of 40 days during which we have the opportunity to reflect on the ways we have turned away from God and pray for the hope and strength to change those ways in an effort to return to Him. During Holy Week, we not only reflect on the joy, pain, suffering, death and Resurrection experienced by Jesus, we pray that God will give us the grace to actively join in His joy, pain, suffering, death and Resurrection. As Christians, we are called to be full and active participants in the Paschal Mystery. When praying about this, we may need time for this message and call to sink in. Fortunately, the Easter



Season does not end on the Monday after Easter. The Easter Season continues for 40 days until the Feast of the Ascension. We need this period to better recognize and embrace the joy that comes from and leads to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. May each one of us take full advantage of the gifts that come to us through our journey in and celebration of the liturgical year of the Church. Happy Easter Season!
-Dcn. Jim Hoegemeier

Parish Disability Liaison

Parish Disability Liaisons serve as a link between the Apostolate, your pastor, and people with disabilities in your parish. It hopes to promote a personal connection with each person who has a disability in the diocese. As this program continues to grow, contact Dcn. Jim if you or someone you know may be a good fit for this position at your parish.



Please join us in praying that God will help us promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the Church, especially in the Diocese of Madison.

My Son Has Autism

By Mary Fruits, a regular interpreter for the Apostolate's TV Mass

Most parents don't encourage their children to bring headphones to church. I do. But they aren't regular "listening to music" headphones. They are noise reducing headphones. Most parents don't cry at their child's first reconciliation or first communion. I did because I never thought my son would be able to comprehend the importance of cleansing our soul of sin through reconciliation or the concept of transubstantiation.

My son has autism. He was diagnosed just before his 3rd birthday. He's been through countless hours of speech therapy, behavior therapy, and occupational therapy. He stims often (what most people would refer to as fidgeting) and often doesn't understand facial expressions or keep eye contact with you when he is speaking with you. He is sensitive to sounds, lights, tastes, and smells.

Now think about mass. The sounds of the bells, the music, the kneelers hitting the floor. That person behind you who sings off key or makes sure that the whole church can hear them. The smells of the incense or oils. The taste of the communion wafer.

I love going to church and I want my children to enjoy it too. I want them to understand the wonderful world that we live in is what God has given us every day, every moment. But the struggle has been real.

At one point in our journey I was even told that I needed to homeschool my son for faith formation because he was a distraction to the other kids in the room and the volunteer faith formation teachers weren't trained to deal with a child like him. When this happened I had to change churches to find one that was more inclusive of those on the spectrum. We would sometimes get stares from parishioners when he would

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Sueginterpreting@gmail.com

The Apostolate is able to offer ministry to people with disabilities in the diocese of Madison thanks to the generosity of so many donors!

Thank You!!

Save the Date:

Day at the Dells: August 23

New! Retreat on September 15

Upcoming Feasts

May 10: St. Damien

May 15: St. Isadore

May 30: The Ascension of the Lord

June 9: Pentacost Sunday

June 23: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

July 1: St. Junipero Serra

July 5: St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Continued 'My Son Has Autism'

put his fingers in his ears because he couldn't handle the sounds in the church.

A lot of the information I read about people with Autism was that they often leave the church or become non-believers because of the abstractness of religion. I didn't want this for my son. I wanted him to participate and understand church. I wanted him to make his sacraments. I wanted him to become an altar server like I was.

There is a saying out there that says, "I asked God for a blessing and he gave me my autistic son." I truly believe that now. God has made my son special. God granted us this child for us to guide to be a disciple of Christ. But He is not only guiding my son, He is guiding us, his parents, along our faith journey. When he was first diagnosed I asked, "Why? Why him? Why us?" But I prayed- daily, sometimes hourly. I prayed the diagnosis was wrong. I prayed he would eat the food I put in front of him. I prayed he would have friends. I prayed for him to understand God, accept Him in his life and to be a disciple of Christ.

And now a moment of honesty. My husband had more faith than me. He knew that God would provide for us. He knew God had this plan for us. He knew that God gave us our son. We weren't burdened with our son and this diagnosis, we were

blessed with our son who has autism. Once I believed that too, I knew that no matter what, we are going to be able to open up his eyes and his heart to God like our parents did for us, just in a little bit of a different way.



Sons of Mary Fruits serving the TV Mass with Msgr. Bakke

My son is now 11. He has made all his sacraments so far. He loves to sing the songs in church. He knows the prayers we say during mass. He likes to read along when we read the readings. He is one of the Acolytes for the TV mass. I still feel that I have to work a little harder with him than my other boys to stay on the right path. I know ultimately it isn't my decision but I know that right now I have to fulfill those promises I made when we had him baptized, before we knew he had autism. I'm not going to let his autism get in the way of his relationship with God.

Blessed Margaret Celebration at St. Mary's, Portage



People with disabilities prayed together, were able to meet parish staff, and were recognized for the gift they are in the community! For more information on the resources the Apostolate can provide to make it possible for your parish to host a similar event, please contact the Apostolate at 608-821-3050 or at APD@madisondiocese.org.



JESUS SAID,

"He was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him."

JOHN 9:3





APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Embrace. Welcome. Participate.

During the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, Pope St. John Paul II addressed participants for the Jubilee of the Disabled with these stirring words:

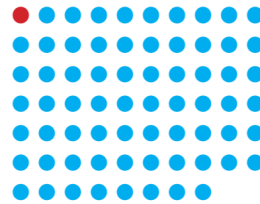
“The Church, as my venerable Predecessor Paul VI liked to say, is ‘a love that seeks out’. How I would like you all to feel welcomed and embraced in her love! First of all you, dear families: those who have children with disabilities and those who share their experience. I say again to you today that I am close to you. Thank you for the witness you bear by the fidelity, strength and patience of your love.”

As Catholics, we are called to welcome all persons with disabilities and during the month of April, there is a particular emphasis on persons with Autism, also known as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Autism is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges.

There is nothing about the physical appearance of a person with Autism that would set them apart from other people. Persons with Autism may learn, behave, react, and communicate in ways that are different than others. Some need very little or no assistance with their daily living; others require substantial supports. The intellectual abilities of persons with Autism can range from gifted to

profoundly challenged. Autism affects every person differently, even among siblings who both have Autism.

1% of the world population has autism spectrum disorder.



1 in 68 children are diagnosed with autism.



ASD is almost 5 times more common among boys (1 in 42) than among girls (1 in 189).



40% of children with autism do not speak.

Source: National Autism Association, Autism Speaks, Autism Society

Since there is a range of abilities and needs among persons with Autism, parishes should work with each person with Autism, their parents, and families to determine the best way to include them in the life of the Church. Some parents of children with Autism feel isolated and alone. They can be overwhelmed with the needs of their child and sadly, can feel stigmatized in their families and their communities. As missionary disciples, we are called to be a love that seeks out and embraces persons with Autism and their families!

Originally published by the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio; copied here with permission.

We're Here For You!

Resources

- **Adaptive Catechesis Kits to support catechesis, especially for people with low IQ, learning disabilities, or who are non-verbal**
- **Situational support—available as needed to work through challenges in parishes such as sacramental prep or finding a parish contact**
- **Picture Guide to the Mass—free, able to be emailed or mailed to you, follow along with the Mass which is very predictable and beautiful**

Parish Suggestions

- **Offer a low stimulation Mass (no music, incense, bells etc.)**
- **Encourage individuals to volunteer and contribute even if it requires a little more work to include them**
- **Meet and get to know people on the Autism spectrum - A Blessed Margaret event could be a first step!**

A Perfect Fit!

Welcome Kayla to the Apostolate Staff

Kayla Schiesser joins the Apostolate as Administrative Coordinator.

Most recently, Kayla worked with Catholic Charities – Diocese of Madison in their Aging Services Department. She served as the Program Assistant in the CompanionCare Program, a supportive home care program for older adults. Prior to Kayla's work at Catholic Charities, she held several positions where she supported persons with varying abilities throughout the life-span that included therapeutic, clinical, educational, recreational, and residential settings.



Kayla brings a unique perspective as she has personal, professional, and volunteer experiences advocating for individuals with varying abilities. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of Wisconsin – Stout and holds a Master of Social Work Degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Her compassion for serving people with disabilities aligns with the Apostolate's mission which she looks forward to promoting and supporting. She strongly believes all individuals, regardless of their abilities, should have equal access to spiritual and sacramental opportunities within the Church.



Kayla is a lifelong Catholic and grew up in the Diocese of LaCrosse. Currently, she attends St. Paul's University Catholic Center in Madison. In Kayla's free time she enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys the outdoors, camping, hiking, traveling, cheering on Wisconsin Sports, and volunteering in the community. Kayla is a member of the Game Management Team for Special Olympics Wisconsin that holds Regional and State

tournaments throughout the state. When asked about her most admired saint, Kayla stated St. Teresa of Calcutta has greatly influence her to serve others. One of Kayla's favorite quotes from St. Teresa of Calcutta is, "Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing."



Be sure to introduce yourself to Kayla the next time you call the office!

How's baby Dominic?

Kellie O'Brien's baby, Dominic, is doing well! Kellie is now working part time for the Apostolate so that she can care for him. He celebrated his first birthday in February, is a good walker, and loves playing outside. He is a happy baby and is looking forward to his first trip to the Dells for the Apostolate's event in August!



Memorials

Memorials For:

Cecilia Gollman
 Dorthy Reed
 Emil Lauber
 Josh Ballweg
 Kurt Virgin
 Tom Reed
 Al Ripp
 Leonard & Lydia Endres
 Peter & Marcella Ripp
 Robbi Koci
 Elise Buol
 Jacob and Forence Buol
 Jeremay Buol
 Jerome and Marian Buol
 John Wiegman Sr.
 Marguerite Burton
 Will Coulthard Family
 Clete, Dean & Keith Alt
 Dale Meyers
 Lorraine A Devitt
 Russell J & Lorraine A Devitt
 Pat Ruegsegger
 Rita Kammes
 Dolores Simon
 Donald E. Botting
 Mary Jane Vosen
 Tony and Anna Ripp
 Alice Kjorlie
 Melvin Douglas
 John Sullivan
 Lori & Monica Sullivan
 P.J. McGuire
 Julius and Calogera Bonura
 Harlan & Florence Sprecher

Given By:

Bernadine Ballweg
 Bernadine Ballweg
 Bernadine Ballweg
 Bernadine Ballweg
 Bernadine Ballweg
 Dan & Rita Endres
 Dan & Rita Endres
 Dan & Rita Endres
 Dan & Rita Endres
 Donovan & Charlain Boley
 Donovan & Charlain Boley
 Donovan & Charlain Boley
 Donovan & Charlain Boley
 Doris Wiegman
 Doris Wiegman
 Doris Wiegman
 Dorothy Alt
 Dorothy Meyers
 Earl & Mary Geske
 Earl & Mary Geske
 Ellingson Family
 Elmer Kammes
 Esther Botting
 Esther Botting
 Esther Botting
 Esther Botting
 Griffin Family
 Helen Douglas
 Helen Sullivan
 Helen Sullivan
 Jan McGuire
 Jeana & Ralph Haak
 Joannie Harrington



Dear Lord, please grant that the souls of the faithfully departed may rest in eternal peace with You and all of the saints in heaven. Amen.

Memorials For:

Jerry V. Baker
 Virginia R Lasica
 Leon Statz
 Mercedes Moellenberndt
 Alice Kjorlie
 David Gostisha
 Amos Braund
 Don Klein
 Sall O'Malley Lathers
 David Hornack
 Dcn. William Gorman
 Donna Berg
 Mercedes Moellenberndt

Given By:

Karen Baker
 Karen Baker
 Kathe Zakrzewski
 Kjorlie Family
 Lukes Family
 Lynda Koivunen
 Marian Steele
 Rose Klein
 Stricker Family
 Anonymous
 Anonymous
 Anonymous
 Anonymous

Memorials for the Living and Deceased Members of the:

Ben & Mary Minter Family
 Coyle - Cummings Family
 Pickar Family
 Schyvinck Family

Given By:

Ben & Mary Minter
 Dolores Coyle
 Ronald & Angnes Pickar
 Ronald & Angnes Pickar

The Apostolate is honored to arrange for Masses to be said for loved ones and to receive donations commemorating your loved ones. Mass intentions and donations made as memorials will be published in our newsletters so that we can all join in praying for the faithful departed.



Memorial For: _____ Given By: _____

Please send \$10 for each Mass Intention to : Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities
 702 S. High Point Rd., Suite 225, Madison WI 53719.

Select *one* per memorial: Mass Request (Not tax deductible) OR Donation (Tax deductible)

NEW: Please check a box to indicate if this memorial is a Mass request or a donation.

If your request is more complex, please include a short letter including your phone number to ensure that we process the request correctly. Call the Apostolate at 608-821-3050 with any questions.





APOSTOLATE FOR
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The Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities is an office in the diocese of Madison, Wisconsin which strives to promote the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life of the Church.



In this issue...

- **Read a letter from Director, Msgr. Larry Bakke**
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- **Discover available disability ministry support**

Television Mass Schedule
Sundays
6am on WISC-TV Channel 3
7am on TVW and Direct TV 14



Thank you to
WISC-TV Channel 3
for your ongoing generosity in providing
the weekly Mass to our viewing audience.