

**Contact: Jennifer Svetlik
Coordinator, Roundtable Association
202/635.2757x133
coordinator@catholicroundtable.org**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2011**

**Janice Benton to receive 2012 Harry A. Fagan Roundtable Award
Director of National Catholic Partnership on Disability honored for her contributions**

WASHINGTON D.C. – The Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocesan Social Action Directors recently announced Janice Benton as the 2012 Harry A. Fagan Roundtable Award recipient. Mrs. Benton will receive the award for her exemplary contributions to the achievement of the Catholic social justice vision through her leadership as Executive Director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, an organization that represents more than 14 million Catholics with disabilities across the United States. The Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocesan Social Action Directors presents the Harry A. Fagan Award annually to a person or persons whose work, in the tradition of Catholic social teaching, has led to significant progress towards greater social justice and dignity for all members of society at the national or international level.

The letter nominating Benton for the award stated that she offers a “powerful witness to the teachings of charity and justice with great enthusiasm, passion, and perseverance.” Benton’s work for more than 30 years in advocacy with persons with disabilities has opened doors and created welcoming communities of justice. Benton assumed the position of NCPD Executive Director in 2004, and had assisted in setting up NCPD in 1982, after serving two years on the precursor U.S. Bishops Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities. She is a frequent speaker at national and diocesan conferences, as well as a guest on various national radio programs and a professed member of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Roundtable Award is named for the late Harry A. Fagan, who served as the director of Catholic Community Action in the diocese of Cleveland and later worked for the National Pastoral Life Center as staff for the Roundtable Association. Fagan also chaired the Social Concerns Department of the Ohio Catholic Conference and served on the board of the Catholic Committee on Urban Ministry. The award has been given annually since 1987.

Janice Benton will receive the Harry A. Fagan Award during the Roundtable’s Annual Symposium on February 11, 2012 at the beginning of the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington D.C.

###