



## **SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:**

1) WONDERFUL! God blessed us with a wonderful Sunday (7/26) for our picnic. We had over 400 people who attended and enjoyed themselves immensely. Thanks to...BRIAN SWATEK (Mr. Everything/Everywhere!), JIM SMITH, the SWATEK FAMILY, PATRICIA SLISZ, TOM & KARLA BLEERS, BARBARA KEINER, RICHARD & KATHY KUSH, CHARLES BRIGHT & members of the CCE softball team, SCOTT NILSSON, TOM SISK, and all our other volunteers that day.

2) RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN: beginning in September, we will have Religious Education classes for our children, deaf and hearing. If you wish to register, please see MRS. SWATEK at St. Francis Borgia any Sunday, or call her at 312-534-7899v, 312-751-8368tty/vp, cathdeafch@archchicago.org. ALSO...we need volunteers to teach in our program. We will train you. Again, talk to Mrs. Swatek.

3) Do you know anyone who needs food? The Catholic Office of the Deaf has a list of places that provide FREE meals to people who are hungry. Contact Ms. Colleen Curry at the Office for this information.

4) BLOOD DRIVE at St. Francis Borgia next Sunday, August 9, from 9 am to 1 pm. Save 3 lives with one pint of blood! Please remember your donor card or driver's license, and eat a healthy breakfast before coming to church.

5) JENNIFER SCHEFFLER (Progress Center) is going back to college to get her Master's degree. JENNIFER has been a wonderful helper to so many people about Social Security, Medicare, Prescription Drug Plans. Thank you, Jennifer, for all the service you have given so many people!

6) Tues, 8/4, 5-9pm: Police Night Out for ALL Families. FREE! Norwood Park, 5801 N. Natoma. Kids can swim, ride water slide; entertainment; refreshments. Safe & fun for families.

7) HOW IS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH..."APOSTOLIC"? The term "Apostolic" means that a Christian Church has connections all the way to the Apostles of Jesus. Also, any Church which calls itself "Apostolic" must teach what the Apostles taught. During the last few weeks I have been reading the HISTORY OF THE CHURCH written by EUSEBIUS (260-339 A.D.). Eusebius was a Catholic bishop who wrote about the first three hundred years of the Catholic/Christian faith. EUSEBIUS shows clearly that from the Apostles, the Catholic Faith has followed the teachings of Jesus. What does Eusebius tell us?

1) From the very beginning, members of the Church always gathered to celebrate the Eucharist (Holy Communion) at Mass.

2) St. Peter was the first "Bishop of Rome" (Pope) and there have been Popes ever since St. Peter. Other Catholic/Christian communities (Corinth, Alexandria, Jerusalem) followed the advice/teaching of the Bishop of Rome. In addition, a person could not decide, "now I am a priest." Even 1900 years ago, the Bishop ordained a person a priest.

3) Many people suffered terrible torture and death because of their Catholic/Christian faith, but they did not give up their beliefs. The Roman emperors tried to destroy the Catholic Faith, but finally by 313 AD, the Church was stronger than the Roman Empire!

4) From the very beginning, the Catholic Church taught that Jesus is truly the Son of God and the Son of Mary (one Person, two natures - divine and human). From the earliest years of the Church, the Jesus-followers honored Mary as the Mother of God ("theotokos" in Greek).

5) The Bible we use today (Old Testament/New Testament) is the same Bible the early Church used. (Interesting: the oldest copy of the Bible is 1,600 years old, called CODEX SINAITICUS. You can go on-line and see it at: [www.codexsinaiticus.org/en](http://www.codexsinaiticus.org/en).)

The CATHOLIC CHURCH is ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, and APOSTOLIC. This is what we declare in the Creed every Sunday at Mass. This is what we say every time we baptize someone into our Catholic faith. Our Catholic faith is a beautiful gift to us from God. We are so grateful we have this wonderful faith. We show our thanks to God how? By living as faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles.

You can continue to learn about our Catholic faith (in ASL!) each week at: [www.frmd.org](http://www.frmd.org)