

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

1) We have many generous people who give their time and work to our Catholic deaf community.

- A) Thanks to those who stuffed our envelopes last week: Carlos Martinez, Tom and Mary Curtin, Peggy Franco, Ed and Joan Christian, Ed Schultz, Mary Scharle, Barb Keiner, Frank and Evelyn Rzasas.
- B) Sunday, March 16th we had our Lent Day. Thanks to: Kathleen Ericksen, Lisa Masciola, Rogelio & Bertha Ramos, Maria Ramos, Rogelio Ramos, Jr., Donna Roberts, Vince Duong, SJ & Scott Gorman, SJ, Susie Schmidt, Beatrice Barajas, Betty Mulvey, Bob & Maggie Swatek, Sam and Rachel Rein, Nancy Huber. Teen helpers were: Jesse Sisk, Jonathan Sangurima, Kevin Herrera, Magdalena Mac. Scott Nilsson handled the clean-up.
- C) Last Friday, 3/27, we had 200 people for the movie, "Wrong Game", TONY CITTA, ED SCHULTZ, BARB KEINER, and SCOTT NILSSON handled the clean-up & closing.

2) TAX REBATES can be "HEALING" REBATES! Many of us have borrowed money from our family and friends. The money we received was a LOAN, not GIFT! The people who loaned us the money expected us to pay that loan back. Often, people fail to do this, make excuses, refuse to pay back what they borrowed. This is UNJUST. Failure to pay back a loan is a SIN!

Often, family relationships and friendships have been destroyed because of this failure to repay the money lent us. This year, some people will get TAX RETURNS. Almost everyone will get a TAX REBATE. Before you spend that money on foolish things, think about those people to whom you owe money. Pay back that loan! This will heal many of the hurt feelings people have. You will feel much better because you do not owe anyone any money.

3) ARTHRITIS: is a terrible disease. I have suffered from it for years. This past winter the condition seemed a lot worse. However, if a child has arthritis, lupus, etc, that child has a lot of suffering and pain. Two events that can help these children:

- 1) SAT, 4/19, Noon-3pm: Fun day for families who have children with arthritis. Noon-3pm. Parents learn about new drugs and treatments. Kids have fun. FREE. Odyssey Fun World, 3440 Odyssey Ct, Naperville. RSVP: 800-735-0096x14, jwashington@arthritis.org
- 2) JULY 18-30, special summer camp for kids 8-17 with arthritis or other such diseases. Lake Geneva, WI. Info: Tarisha at 800-735-0096x14. (Camp has elevators, special bathrooms.)

4) This week, we have in our Bible readings the famous story of the conversion of St. Paul (Acts 9:1-20). Pope Benedict has declared that 2008 will be the "Year of St. Paul". The Pope wants all of us to learn more about St. Paul and his teachings. We are planning to do some workshops here at St. Francis Borgia in the Fall about St. Paul and His Letters (Epistles).

5) HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS: this past week, St. Francis Hospital (Blue Island) announced it was closing. This is sad. This hospital cared for many deaf people and their family members. The big problem: the State of Illinois was not paying for emergency room services.

More and more, hospital emergency rooms are becoming the place where poor people and those without insurance go for medical situations (emergency/non-emergency). Why? Because if a person comes to the emergency room, the hospital MUST treat that person. However, because so many people are going to emergency rooms, sometimes you must wait 3-6 hours before a doctor will see you! So, if you want to get better service when you go to an emergency room, what should you do?

Everyone (every family) should have an "In Case of Emergency" folder/envelope in their home. (Many people keep such an envelope wrapped in plastic and in the refrigerator freezer.) This is easy for the paramedics to find. Or, if you have to go to the emergency room, it is easy for YOU to remember where the envelope is! In that folder/envelope, you should have:

- ...emergency phone numbers: children, spouse (home & work): cell phone, pager, text, etc.;
- ...a list of medical info: doctors, ALL medications, allergies, record of recent surgeries;
- ...insurance numbers for health insurance, Medicare/Medicaid, life insurance (copies are okay);
- ...phone for CHS Interpreter services; Catholic Office of the Deaf; your own pastor/rabbi

Hopefully, you will not have to use this "In Case of..." folder/envelope. However, better to be prepared for whatever happens. When there is an emergency, we don't have time to think about everything we should do and bring to a hospital.

6) Sat, 4/26, ASL EXPO, DuPage Fairgrounds, Bldg #1, 2015 W. Manchester Rd, Wheaton.