

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

1) RIDICULOUS! Every few months, someone who calls himself a history expert, denies that the HOLOCAUST happened. The HOLOCAUST describes the murder of over 12 million people (6 million of these were Jews). The people who say the Holocaust did not happen are ignorant.

The Nazis killed over 6 million Jewish people. This really happened! The Nazis also killed at least one million Catholics, including thousands of priests (St. Maximilian Kolbe) and Religious Sisters and Brothers, and catechists! The Nazis tortured and murdered at least two million people who were DEAF and/or had DISABILITIES. People who claim that these murders did not happen are spreading lies and denying the truth!

2) In these difficult economic times, many people have lost jobs and, therefore, lost health insurance. There are some things to remember:

a) 9-1-1: if someone in your home becomes very sick and needs help, contact 9-1-1 immediately. Even if you have NO insurance, call 9-1-1. If you are deaf, you can pick up the phone, dial 9-1-1. Even if you cannot hear anyone, the 9-1-1 operator will send help. OR, call on your VP for 9-1-1 assistance; VP relay will get the call to the police/fire department.

Many people put their important medical papers (list of medicines, doctor's name, family contact numbers, etc.) in a plastic bag and put it in the freezer. Paramedics will look in the freezer for this packet.

b) ER (Emergency Room). If you have no insurance and need medical care, go to the closest ER. The ER must help you even without insurance! Make sure you bring your medical papers, list of medicines, doctor's name, phone numbers of family with you.

c) Most hospitals have CATHOLIC services. If you are Catholic, you can ask the hospital for someone to bring you Holy Communion in the hospital.

d) TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH: if the local hospital offers "Heart Screenings", "Diabetes Screenings", "Health Fairs", etc. Go! Many of these are at a reduced rate. For example, Gottlieb Hospital/Fitness center, 551 W. North, Melrose Park has heart screenings available everyday including Saturdays for only \$30. 708-450-5790, www.GottliebFitness.org.

e) SIGN-LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS: the ADA law says that hospitals MUST provide sign-language interpreters for the patient and/or deaf family members. If a hospital refuses to get an interpreter, you have the right to sue the hospital!

f) need help with MEDICARE/MEDICAID? Contact JENNIFER SCHEFFLER at Progress Center in Forest Park (also BLUE ISLAND). Jennifer (DEAF) is an expert on Medicare/Medicaid. 708-209-1826 vp, 708-209-1735 fax, jscheffler@progresscil.org

3) PARENTS of DEAF and/or DISABLED CHILDREN: it seems that some schools are punishing deaf and/or disabled children. Why? Because they are deaf or disabled! Many schools have "time-out" rooms. These rooms are meant for children who are disturbing the class or doing mean things. However, some teachers think it is okay to send a child to these rooms because the child is deaf and/or disabled and the teacher has a hard time communicating with that child. This is WRONG!

A child who is deaf or has a disability sometimes struggles to communicate. Sometimes that child does things to get the teacher to pay attention. The teacher or school is wrong to punish that child for trying to communicate!

4) Sat, Feb.28, 9am-4pm: "Interpreting for Deaf Latinos" workshop. Mt. Sinai Hospital.
INFO: AustinCop@aol.com

5) Feb.13-20, I (Fr. Joe) will be in Arizona. I am giving a Mission to the Deaf Community of Phoenix, then giving another Mission to the hearing parish of St. Joseph. If there is an emergency, contact the Catholic Office of the Deaf immediately.

6) Young Adult Retreat, March 13-15, 2009: if someone wishes to attend, but has money problems, let Fr. Mike Depcik know. He can help out with this.

7) Excellent book by the Jewish hearing son of deaf parents, HANDS OF MY FATHER: A Hearing Boy, His Deaf Parents, and the Language of Love by Myron Uhlberg. Bantam Books; 2009. Available at Borders Books.

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