

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

1) HAWTHORNE RAFFLE WINNERS:

- \$3,000: Addy Whitehouse (sign-language interpreter)
- \$3,000: Ken Aldrich (deaf; lives in Ohio)
- \$3,000: Mr and Mrs. Gall (friends of the Bleers family)
- \$2,000: Barb Keiner (deaf)
- \$2,000: Mr and Mrs. Brunger (their daughter taught deaf children)
- \$1,500: Russell Ternes (friend of Fr. Joe's in Wis; his dad died this past year)
- \$1,500: Suzette DeSalvo (friend to many people in the deaf community)
- \$1,000: Shelley Engstrom-Kestel (sign-language interpreter)
- \$500: Ed and Mary Mulcrone (my parents)
- \$500: Maruta Bergmanis (friend of the Bleers family).

2) HAWTHORNE FINAL NUMBERS: 214 people attended. Financial report next week.

3) DEC. 11TH: WE ARE PLANNING TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE TO THE Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday evening, Dec. 11th. This shrine is in DesPlaines. Last year, 50,000 people were there. We will attend one of the Masses and bring sign-language interpreters. More information soon. May have to stand outside, so dress for cold weather!

4) Writing your Will? Please remember St. Francis Borgia Deaf Center in your Will. If you leave something for the Deaf Center, then the work with Catholic Deaf people will go on for years in the future.

5) AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE: over the last few weeks, my family has buried both our dear uncle, Msgr. Mulcrone, and my mother, Mary. In both cases, we have used emails, websites, all sorts of technology. In so many ways, technology (computers, cell phones, text messengers, VP) made it so much easier to communicate. In some cases, because so many people were sending so many messages, there was some confusion and misunderstanding.

Modern technology is very helpful. We were able to get the message out to other countries in a flash! I received a number of beautiful wishes from hearing and deaf people across the USA and from Europe and South America. However, we have to be careful how we use technology. We should never send information unless we are really sure it is true. Some people have had sad and hurt feelings because of misunderstandings communicated through technology.

At the Catholic Office of the Deaf, when someone dies we try to make sure we send out accurate information to help people, not confuse them.

One of the best experiences I had through these last few weeks was the huge number of people emailing, calling, or telling me, "I am praying for you and your family." What a wonderful gift! Sometimes, we want to help people but don't know how to do that. We can ALWAYS pray for them. Jesus even told us, "Pray for your enemies!" I and my entire family are most grateful for all your kindnesses and prayers throughout the time of Msgr. Charles Mulcrone and Mary Mulcrone's funerals.

6) Do you live in the Diocese of Rockford? (Kane, McHenry counties, etc.) Msgr. Nelson does a wonderful job providing for the needs of deaf Catholics in these counties. For information on Church activities, interpreted Masses, etc: www.DeafApostolateRockfordDiocese.weebly.com
This includes information on the Christmas Party Sunday, Dec. 14th in DeKalb.

7) Next Sunday, Nov. 30th, we begin the holy season of Advent. People want to know more about the meaning of Advent, what the Church readings for each week mean, etc. There are a couple of wonderful resources you can use from the computer:

- a) Fr. Mike Depcik has a great vlog! He helps us understand what the Catholic Church teaches us: www.frmd.org
- b) Learn about the readings at Sunday Mass each week, in AMERICAN SIGN-LANGUAGE!
Go to: www.transfiguration.com. On the left-side index, click "Sign Language Liturgies" and click on a date. You may need to use the "download liturgy" button.
- c) A FREE Advent Retreat on line. Email: kolberetreat@aol.com

8) Starting this Sunday, there will be two (2) Masses in Polish every Sunday in the chapel, 7:30 and 9am. This is important because we can still use the hall each Sunday before and after the 10:30am Mass. Please, do NOT park your cars on the northside of the building till after 10am. We MUST keep this area clear for the cars of people attending the two Masses.