

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA DEAF CENTER, 8025 W. ADDISON
NOVEMBER 30, 2008 **1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

This Fri, Dec. 5th: Learn about Protecting Your Real Estate! Carl DeMoon, real estate expert, will give a FREE presentation at St. Francis Borgia Deaf Center.

5pm: pizza, coffee, soft drinks. Bring salad or dessert to share.

7pm: talk by Mr. DeMoon (voice and sign) and answer your questions.

(Fr. Joe needs some helpers for the food service; let him know if you can help that night.)

Sat, 12/6, 1-5pm: Winter Party for families with deaf members, Palatine, IL. FREE. Sign-language Santa. Must RSVP by 12/1: justmel1969@hotmail.com

Next Sun, Dec. 7th:

a) Last Sunday to bring warm cloths for children who were sexually abused.

b) Mass, 10:30am. 1-5pm, ADVENT DAY, (Mass, 3:30pm; everyone is welcome.)

c) 9am-3pm: Irish Christmas Bazaar (great gifts!) & Bake Sale, Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox, Chgo. (Santa Claus there 1-3pm.)

Mon, Dec. 8, 7pm: Mass of the Immaculate Conception. Coffee after Mass.

Thurs, Dec. 11: Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration at special shrine, corners of Rt. 45 & Central Rd, Des Plaines. Mass: 8pm. Spanish; interpreted in ASL. Bus leaves at 5:30pm from St. Francis Borgia. (FREE). Wear warm clothes. You can drive, but you may end up parking a mile away!

LAST CHANCE to sign up for Prescription Drug Plan (Medicare/Medicaid) by 12/15.

12/2, 10am-3pm: Progress Center South, 12940 S. Western, BLUE ISLAND.

12/9, 11am-5pm: FITE Cent. For Ind. Living, 105 E. Galena Blvd, 5th floor, AURORA.

Info: Jennifer Scheffler, 866-563-8695vp, 708-209-1827tty, jscheffler@progresscil.org (you can also visit her in FOREST PARK). Bring your medicine bottles to the meetings.

REMINDER, CITY OF CHICAGO: starting Dec. 1st, Chicago has very strict rules about parking on major streets and during heavy snow storms. Look carefully at street signs.

ADVENT begins today, 11/30:

1) Fr. Mike Depcik's vlog: www.frmd.org

2) Sunday readings at Mass: www.transfiguration.com, click "Sign-Language Liturgies".

3) FREE ADVENT on-line retreat. Email: kolberetreat@aol.com

PARKING REMINDER: do NOT park your cars on the northside of the deaf center (Addison street side) before 10am. We MUST keep this area clear for people attending the two Polish Masses at 7:30 and 9am.

HELP DEAF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ENJOY CHRISTMAS: on Sat., Dec. 20th, the Rockford Deaf Ministry and St. Francis Borgia Deaf Center will travel to the Mabley Center in Dixon, IL. There are over 90 deaf people there. Many have severe disabilities and no families. We need people to buy gifts (mainly clothes) for 42 of those residents. Please see RICHARD KUSH to help out, or ask DEACON CASEY for information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Fri, 12/5: "REAL ESTATE 2008-2009: Questions and Answers". (Information is above.)

Sun, 12/7: Masses at 10:30am & 3:30pm. 1-5pm: Advent day for families.

Mon, 12/8: Mass of Immaculate Conception, 7pm. Refreshments after Mass.

Thurs, 12/11: Bus for Our Lady of Guadalupe leaves at 5:30pm and returns at Midnight.

Sat, 12/13: Noon-2pm, Fr. Mike Depcik, Confessions in chapel. 6pm: Mass of Guadalupe & Fiesta after Mass.

Sun, 12/14: Mass, 10:30am. CCE Christmas party after Mass.

DE KALB: Noon Mass & Christmas party with Msgr. Nelson.

TINLEY PARK: 4pm Mass with Fr. Mike Depcik, St. Julie Billiart.

LEMONT: 5pm Mass (Fr. Joe) at St. Patrick Parish.

READ YOUR BIBLE EVERYDAY:

12/1: Isaiah 2:1-5/ Matthew 8:5-11

12/4: Isaiah 26:1-6/Matthew 7:21-27

12/2: Isaiah 11:1-10/Luke 10:21-24

12/5: Isaiah 29:17-24/Matthew 9:27-31

12/3: Isaiah 25:6-10/Matthew 15:29-37

12/6: Isaiah 30:19-26/Matt. 9:35-10:8

The prophet Isaiah wrote 600 almost 2,600 years ago. His words still have meaning for us in our world today! God is speaking to OUR hearts through the writings of Isaiah.

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

1) In these difficult times, people look for help. The State of Illinois has many agencies to help people for...food stamps...medical cards...unemployment. Deaf people have the right to get sign-language interpreters for any business with the State, County, or city governments in Illinois. If government offices refuse to provide sign-language interpreting, immediately contact the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission: 1-877-455-3323 v/tty, www.idhhc.state.il.us

2) By now, many of you know that there have been changes at Chicago Hearing Society (CHS). JILL SAHAKIAN, the Executive Director, lost her job. Why? Because of the State of Illinois! Ms. Sahakian has been an excellent Director of CHS for many years. However, CHS (and ANIXTER CENTER) depend on the State of Illinois to fund its programs. (Other people at Anixter Center also lost their jobs.) The State of Illinois has made very bad decisions about how to use our tax money. In addition, the State sometimes waits to pay bills to agencies like CHS for 3-6 months! So, there was not enough money. (Also, BILL ORTIGA lost his job, too.)

This is sad, but this is only the beginning! We will see many more agencies and organizations cut programs and stop helping people because of the economy. Who will suffer? WE will and many of our families, too! We all need to try to be helpful and supportive to others who are suffering. Be patient: let people tell their stories. Pray: pray for those who are in great need and are filled with fear. Help those worse off than you: clothes for sexually abused children...gifts for people at Mabley Center.

3) HAWTHORNE: we are still getting some contributions. However, it seems that we collected over \$42,000 (admissions, cash raffle, donations, basket raffle). Our expenses were \$24,000 (cash raffle prizes, cost of Hawthorne room, printing, mailings, etc.). Several people who won the raffle donated money back to Catholic Office of the Deaf. So, the profit was over \$20,000 to the Catholic Office of the Deaf. Wow! Thanks so much!!!!

4) DEC. 1st is...WORLD AIDS DAY. We remember that there are still millions of people in the world who suffer from HIV/AIDS. Pray for them.

5) Sat, 12/13, Deaf European American Association CHRISTMAS PARTY, 7pm-midnight. Pizza by Alex, 5040 W. Montrose. Come to the 6pm Mass at St. Francis that night, enjoy OUR Fiesta, then go to the DEAAP party. 773-745-9788vp, dbekiri7daeap@yahoo.com...

AND.....

11:30am, WSAD Gold 50+ Luncheon, ELMHURST. Info at www.wsadeaf.org. Enjoy a delicious lunch and play the "DEAL or NO DEAL" Game.

6) ST. JULIE CHRISTMAS PARTY, Sun, 12/21, after the 4pm Mass. JOE KULA & JIM SMITH have tickets. Bus will leave St. Francis Borgia at 2pm, then leave St. Julie at 7pm. \$5/person (children FREE). Please sign-up for bus.

7) Mon, 12/1 is the 50th anniversary of the Our Lady of Angels fire that killed 92 children and three nuns. Pray for all victims of fires. Also, pray for our Firefighters and Paramedics who work 24/7/365 to keep us safe.

8) MORE EVENTS:

Thur, 12/4, 10am-4:30pm: Learn about HIV/AIDS. FREE LUNCH. Receive \$20. Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital, 1401 S. California, Chgo. RSVP: 773-257-6289vp, hedt@sinai.org

FRI, 12/5, 7:30pm: "Celebrate Wintereenmas: No Way!"-fun play by deaf students at Hinsdale South, Darien, IL. 630-468-4001v, mbrady@hinsdale86.org.

SAT, 12/6, 11am-3pm: Deaf-Blind Holiday Party. Chicago Lighthouse. 312-666-1331#3415v 312-421-4788tty, deafblindinfo@chicagolighthouse.org

TUES, 12/16, 1-3pm: Deaf Social/Support Group, Schaumburg Township. RSVP: 847-884-1560tty/vp, sphadke@schaumburgtownship.org

Last weekend, I was in Scranton, PA to give a Mission with the Catholic deaf community. Scranton is a two-hour drive north of Philadelphia. We had about 25 deaf people for the Mission. Sr. Mary Beth Makuch who used to work here in Chicago is responsible for the ministry with deaf people in the Scranton Diocese.

The area of northern Pennsylvania is very rugged with mountains and forests. The deaf people at the Mission were terrific and shared some wonderful ideas and hopes for their own lives. I was glad to be with them, but also glad to leave. Why? Because on the Monday after the Mission, "Bear hunting season" begins in PA. I did not want them seeing me with my 'Chicago Bears' hat!

Mon, Dec.1st is the feast of Blessed Charles de Foucauld. He is one of my heavenly heroes!