

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

1) THANKS, FR. MIKE DEPCIK. We are so blessed! Why? Because Fr. Mike Depcik was with us since last Fall. Fr. Mike is going to Michigan for the summer to work at Camp DeSales. He will return to be with us again in the Fall, starting on August 31st for Mass!

During this past year, Fr. Mike has helped many people by his counseling, his prayerful way to celebrate the Mass, his workshops, and his support. Personally, I appreciate how generous Fr. Mike has been offering his time to serve our community and make my life easier. Please pray for Fr. Mike this summer; he will be praying for us!

2) ECUADOR/MYANMAR (Burma). Recently, there has been a very bad volcano problem in Ecuador. I received an email from the deaf community, asking us to help them. At the same time, there is a group of deaf people in Washington, DC collecting money for the deaf people in Myanmar (Burma) who suffered because of the cyclone. That cyclone killed over 120,000 people. (I checked; the group in DC is NOT a scam; it is a true deaf organization. Several of the people on that committee work at Gallaudet. The people in Ecuador are people I know who work with the deaf community there.)

God has blessed us in so many ways. We have so much here that deaf people in other countries do not have. I decided to send \$500 to the Ecuador deaf community; \$500 for the deaf suffering in Myanmar (Burma). I explained in my letters to each group that these are gifts to our deaf brothers and sisters who are suffering.

3) WONDERING: when I began working in the deaf community in 1977, there were many deaf organizations: NW Silent Club, Lincoln Club for the Deaf, the 58th deaf club on Western Ave. These are all gone. Other deaf organizations (CCD; TCCI; see the other side for info; etc) that worry about their future. The deaf world is changing. There are new groups: Deaf Cultural Center, Illinois Deaf Latino Association, WSAD "Gold", deaf "chat" get-togethers. If the cost of gas continues to rise, will many deaf organizations be able to survive? Maybe the future will be more VP, emails, etc. If that happens, we will lose something valuable: COMMUNITY!

Technology is wonderful; it can make communication much more available. Yet, there is something very important about people being together: to shake a hand, get a hug, share a laugh, reassure someone who is sad, pray with one another. We cannot do that on a computer.

Today, the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus (Corpus Christi). We remember the teaching of our Church that "...on the night before Jesus died, HE took bread and gave thanks for it. Then HE shared the bread saying, 'This is my body; it is for you.' In the same way after Jesus and His friends had eaten, Jesus took the cup of wine. HE said 'This wine is my blood given for you. Do this (the MASS) and remember me (JESUS).'"(1 Corinthians 11:17-26).

Each week when we come together for Mass, we come together as the BODY of CHRIST, Brothers and Sisters to one another in Jesus. We welcome one another, forgive one another, support one another, offer peace to one another, share the Body and Blood of Jesus with one another, and do our best to love one another. Then, we have some coffee/rolls, and share our lives/stories/laughter/heartbreak with one another. The best computer in the world can do NONE of the above!

4) FUNERALS: last week, I interpreted two funeral Masses; I celebrated a burial service for a deaf person at the cemetery on another day. I believe that it is VERY IMPORTANT to help families when a loved one dies. Our CATHOLIC OFFICE OF THE DEAF (312-655-7899v, cathedeafch@archchicago.org) especially Colleen and Nancy, often help grieving families. However, sometimes families (hearing) do not know what to do re: interpreters.

a) If someone dies in a deaf/Catholic family, someone should contact the Catholic Office of the Deaf immediately. If it is in the evening or a weekend, call me (Fr. Joe) at 773-625-5070.

b) CHS (Chicago Hearing Society) will provide interpreter services at the wake (including several free hours of interpreting). The funeral home should contact CHS as soon as possible.

c) If this is a Catholic person, our Office will:

I. Send out the wake/funeral announcement on our email system;

II. We will get a sign-language interpreter for the Catholic funeral;

III. During my time away in Rome, our Office will still be open to help people.

d) If you want your funeral to be at St. Francis Borgia Deaf Center and/or you want me (Fr. Joe) or Fr. Mike to celebrate the funeral, tell your family NOW! Don't wait till you are dead and your family does not know your wishes!

5) On June 22nd, I (Fr. Joe) will be in Rome. We WILL have mass here in the chapel at 10:30am.