Dear Friends,

What a beautiful October month we had with unusual warm temperatures, trees leaves turning to a spectacular panoramic, artistic view, and now recently dark clouds in the sky with strong gusty winds remind us that winter is just around the corner. So what does that mean? It is time to rake the leaves, tune-up the snow blower and dust off the shovel to get ready for the first white snowfall.

Autumn reminds us of the meaning of life. Life is like the different seasons of the year when summer turns into fall into winter into spring. We go through changes in our daily lives, too. “We are born….we live a full life. We grow older…we die. As the season cycle starts over in spring, we also rise from our death to new life with God.”

Our Archdiocese is going through some changes as well. Bishop Callahan is now the Bishop of the La Crosse Diocese and Auxiliary Bishop Sklba announced his retirement (see his letter on page 4). Please pray for Archbishop Listecki as he continues to shepherd our faithful here in the Milwaukee Archdiocese and pray for a new auxiliary bishop(s).

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Council continue to work on drafting the “Strategic Plan for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry Office.”

This involves our Vision and Mission statements as well as plan of action on how we will implement them. When completed we will present this plan to Archbishop Listecki for his approval.

In collaborating with Ephpheta Sodality of St. John the Baptist – ICDA Chapter 7, we have sponsored a display booth about Deaf Catholic Ministry at several events such as the 4-Deaf Clubs Picnic and Deaf Awareness Fest. The purpose was to inform the community what kind of services our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry Office provides.

We are still providing interpreters for the Pentecost Mission classes and other special lectures that involve our Catholic formation. I would like to send a special “Thank You” to all the interpreters for your services.

I am in the final year of my studies at St. Thomas University. I look forward to share with you all that I have learned from my studies in the ministry formation.

May your harvest be bountiful for you and your family during this Thanksgiving Holiday.

Terri Matenaer, Coordinator for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Ministry Archdiocese of Milwaukee deafministry@archmil.org 262-321-0464—TTY/Voice 262-672-6823—Video Phone

“Prayer is the highest achievement of which the human person is capable.”

~ St. Teresa Benedict of the Cross
Greetings from the Deaf Ministry in Delavan as we begin another school year with the students from the Wisconsin School for the Deaf. With God’s grace, we are eager to share the Good News with the kids. This year 26 parents requested that their Deaf children receive Catholic instruction at St. Andrew’s church.

We have one elementary student who will be baptized this year. I am working with her to prepare her for this sacrament of initiation. Another Deaf child will be welcomed into our beautiful faith! Praise God!

We have 8 high school students that are preparing to make their First Confession. They will make their First Confession in their native language of ASL with Father Brain Holbus in Dec. This year Arvilla Rank is teaching this class and preparing them for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What a joy it is to share with the students about God’s love and how eager he is to forgive us when we sin. Not only does he forgive us, but He showers us with his amazing grace every time we go to Confession. What a beautiful gift this sacrament is! How blessed we are to be able to introduce these 8 high school students to this sacrament. I know it is more difficult for the Deaf to take advantage of this wonderful sacrament because of communication barriers. I pray you will be able to celebrate this sacrament every time it becomes available to you.

I am also teaching another class in the evening of combined middle school and high school students that continue learning about the story of Jesus’ ministry on earth and how sending God’s Son to live among us changed the world forever. We already are learning so much!

I am also thrilled that two other Deaf women have joined us this year in the ministry. We welcomed Mary Ellen Martens who comes to Delavan from Milwaukee and serves as a teacher assistant in the evening classes. Also Roxy North from Delavan, who is also a WSD alumnus, supervises the evening bus that transports the kids to church. She also is a teacher assistant in the evening classes. I feel God has answered our prayers with Mary Ellen and Roxy. Both women have decided to say “Yes” to God and be used by Him as a tool to help the Deaf children learn more about their faith. I am grateful for their willingness to be brave and step up to serve as Deaf Catholic leaders for the kids.

So this is how the school year is starting out. We have a lot of work to do, and yet it is a joy to do the Masters work. We are His tools. We are blessed to serve. He takes care of the rest.

In His Service,

Patty Kostechka
Religious Education Coordinator for the Deaf
St. Andrew’s, Delavan
Seated: Malia Christenson, Briana Robertson

Standing: Roxy North, Daniel Orizaba, Daniel Romero, Jon DeRosier, Andy Coppola, Patty Kostechka

Arvilla Rank, Julian Chairez, Kayla Waters, Alex Evangelista, Taylor Koss, Mary Ellen Martens

2010 Deaf Awareness Fest
By Margaret Calteaux

On a beautiful fall day of September 25th, the Deaf Awareness Fest was held at Milwaukee Area Technical College – Oak Creek Campus turned out to be very successful.

There were much information about culture, education, identity, linguistic as well as entertainments for both the kids and adults. We displayed about our Catholic Deaf Ministry and were happy to have Christopher Klusman present at our booth.
This morning’s formal announcement that the Holy Father has accepted my resignation from my administrative responsibilities as Auxiliary Bishop (in accordance with canon 401, paragraph 1) offers the opportunity for an immediate expression of my deep gratitude to God for the opportunity to serve God’s people here in southeastern Wisconsin in this fashion for these many decades. Pope Benedict XVI’s kindness to me over the years has been deeply appreciated.

These years have not always been easy, but they have inevitably offered many experiences of God’s loving mercy, grace and growth. To have lived this time in the empowering spirit of the Second Vatican Council on the one hand, but also to have experienced personally the profound sorrows of the Church from the effects of the abuse of our children and youth, has been a deep and painful immersion into the Lord’s Paschal Mystery. Through it all, we know that our God is always and ever an almighty source of healing and new beginnings.

Our clergy continue to stand as good and faithful brothers, “partners in the work of the Gospel.” Our people remain wise and generous in the presence of so much divine grace. Our parish communities are very vital. Looking back over the years in which I have been privileged to work under the leadership of Archbishops Cousins, Weakland, Dolan and now Jerome E. Listecki, I know that I have been enormously blessed indeed!

My plan is to offer Archbishop Listecki every bit of assistance I can during these next few months until the end of the year. Thereafter, I have many writing projects stemming from my love for the Word of God. I hope to offer weekend help out at parishes across the Archdiocese and to preside at a limited number of Confirmations each spring. My continuing prayer is simply “Marana Tha / Come Lord Jesus” into every aspect of the Church’s mission and life so that God may be glorified and the world truly transformed by God’s healing grace! Thank you for the opportunity to serve! I am deeply grateful.

+Bishop Richard J. Sklba

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October 12, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to tell you that a very constructive development in the local litigation related to clergy sexual abuse of minors is about to occur.

At present, there are 12 lawsuits filed by 15 victims/survivors alleging archdiocesan leaders committed fraud by failing to disclose past credible allegations about priests who had sexually abused minors when moving these priests to new assignments, enabling them to commit additional assaults.

In an effort to resolve these claims and bring some healing and peace to the victims/survivors, I directed our attorneys to ask the victims/survivors in these cases whether they would be willing to try to reach a settlement of these lawsuits through a mediation process. I am heartened that the claimants, through their attorneys, have agreed to participate in a mediation that has been scheduled for October 18 in Chicago, with a retired Cook County, Ill., judge serving as the independent mediator. I’ll be participating in this proceeding in an attempt to resolve these cases. Reaching a just settlement of these claims would, of course, also carry the added benefit of avoiding the additional pain, huge financial costs, lengthy delays and further uncertainty that trials will cause.

This is a positive development for everyone. Let me say with all sincerity that I am approaching this mediation with an open mind, a humble heart, and a willingness to jointly seek resolution, if one is possible.

It needs to be clear to everyone that this mediation is one more important step in a permanent, continuing archdiocesan journey to minister to the ongoing pain and suffering of the victims/survivors and their families.

My first nine months in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has meant nearly total immersion in both the current victims/survivors’ issues and questions, and reviewing what is now a 20-year history of initiatives taken by the archdiocese to respond to and resolve the needs of clergy sexual abuse victims/survivors. What we have learned about the human damage and suffering of the victims/survivors makes it clear our goal must be to find ways to bring peace and comfort to these individuals and their families. Direct mediation talks between us may be that promising pathway.

Sometime after the mediation is concluded I’ll report to you on what was learned and what was accomplished.

Please pray for all those involved in this mediation, asking the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance, and join me in praying for all of those who have been harmed by clergy sexual abuse.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee

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Calendar of Events around the Archdiocese . . . .  

Pentecost Mission: 
Living the Catholic Life 

Please pre-register and contact Terri Matenaer at deafministry@archmil.org to reserve space. 

Nov 6, 2010 Why Won’t My Kids Go to Church? 
Dec 4, 2010 Following Christ in a Consumer Society 

NCOD Pastoral Week 
January 14-18, 2011 
Renewing the Vision: 
40 years as the Hands of Christ 
At the W Atlanta Perimeter in Atlanta, GA. 
For more information, go to www.ncod.org 

ICDA-US Section 
6th Biennial Conference 
July 10-15, 2011 
“Connected in Christ!” 
At the Marriott Chicago Schaumburg Hotel 
For more information, go to www.icda-us.org/2011_ICDA-US_Conf.htm 

Bible Study with Deacon David Sommers 
Nov. 8th—11:00AM—Water Tower View 
Nov. 8th—6:30PM—St. Andrews 
Nov. 15th—7:00PM—St. Matthias 
Dec. 13th—11:00AM—Water Tower View 
Dec. 13th—6:30PM—St. Andrews 
Dec. 20th—7:00PM—St. Matthias 

Fr MD’s Kitchen Table 
Visit Fr. Mike Depcik’s website to learn more deep love for God and to learn more about the Catholic Faith in ASL. 
Please visit his website at www.frmd.org 

The Ministry Formation Program (MFP) is seeking candidates who are interested in serving within the Deaf Catholic community. The goal of the MFP is to train Catholic Deaf adults who wish to serve as active lay ministers. The four-year training program begins in September and concludes in May. Each weekends runs from Friday evening through Sunday noon. The MFP sessions take place in the Chicago area. The instructors are professionals who understand Deaf culture and who possess skills in communication in sign language. The certificate of completion of the four-year ministry training program will enable candidates to work in any of the following ministries: Bible Study, Prayer Groups, RCIDA, Religious Education, Sacramental Preparation, Youth Ministry, and many more! 
Request an application, contact Sr. Rita Ann Wigginton, OSU at 866-371-8658 (VP) or mfp1993@insightbb.com 
For more information, contact Terri Matenaer at deafministry@archmil.org 

St. Thomas University (STU) School of Theology & Ministry offers Masters of Arts in Pastoral Ministries with the Deaf and is seeking candidates who are interested in serving within the Deaf Catholic community. The Graduate program’s curriculum is designed for both Deaf and hearing students that work with the Deaf. The program is coordinate and taught by STU full-time faculty as well as fully qualified spiritual leaders and scholars that meet the needs of the Deaf culture. This enables Deaf students to be trained by ministers and leaders from the front lines. The School of Theology and Ministry offers this MA program in two intensive sessions each year over the course of four years. Students come to campus for a one-week course in January and again for two weeks during the summer. Students continue their learning online for each course to fully maximize academic studies and personal performance. Request an application, contact Cynthia Rose-McIntyre at crose@stu.edu 
For more information, contact Terri Matenaer at deafministry@archmil.org
### Questions & Answers Regarding the Mediation Process

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<th>Why mediate?</th>
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<td><em>This mediation is one more important step on a permanent, continuing diocesan journey to reach resolution with victims/survivors and their families, and to minister to their ongoing pain. Mediation is about those involved, and their representatives, engaging in discussions and negotiations under the supervision of a mutually acceptable mediator. We believe this more direct approach is preferable to a legal proceeding if there’s any possibility of finding common ground. The archdiocese looks upon this mediation as an opportunity where we can sit down and talk, face-to-face. Archbishop Listecki has said he is approaching it with an open mind, a humble heart, and a sincere belief that a mediated resolution is possible.</em></td>
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<th>Who is the mediator? How was he or she selected?</th>
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<td><em>Retired Cook County (Ill.) Judge Stuart Nudelman will be the mediator. One crucial ground rule, and a key ingredient of success, is that the mediator selected be acceptable to both parties. Judge Nudelman is someone both sides are comfortable working with. There are many factors that make the mediator acceptable including understanding of the issues, prior experience and credibility among the participants.</em></td>
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<th>If this succeeds, will this be the end of this issue?</th>
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<td><em>A successful mediation can bring some peace and comfort to the claimants and their families. For the archdiocese this mediation is another step on a permanent, continuing journey to minister to the ongoing pain of the victim/survivors and their families.</em></td>
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<th>Is it possible to reach a mediated settlement? Will this exercise do any good?</th>
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<td><em>We’re pursuing this because we think it can work.</em></td>
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<th>What if it doesn’t work?</th>
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<td><em>At this point we are placing our faith and energies in the belief that we can reach an agreement through mediation. The only way to find out if this will work is to approach it with integrity and openness.</em></td>
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<th>Will the Archbishop be involved?</th>
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<td><em>Archbishop Listecki will participate in the mediation.</em></td>
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If it doesn’t work, will you file for bankruptcy?

Bankruptcy would be an extremely painful and serious decision that would only come as a last resort. The financial tension we are living under is to do everything we can to reach resolution with victims/survivors while continuing to fund the other essential ministries of the Catholic Church in southeastern Wisconsin. Several other dioceses have come to the conclusion that the only way to manage these demands was to declare bankruptcy. We hope we can find another way. Right now, our focus remains on reaching resolution with victims/survivors through mediation.

Have you ever succeeded with mediation in the past?

Yes. To date, settlements have been reached with 190 victims/survivors through mediation.

Why should these 15 believe they can do as well or better through mediation vs. through lawsuits?

Mediation is a way to reach a resolution and the agreement to mediate is an indication that we believe a resolution is possible. A mediated agreement is one way of avoiding the additional pain, huge financial costs, lengthy delays and further uncertainty that trials will cause.

Victim/survivors who reached resolution with the Archdiocese through independent mediation in the past received a financial component as part of their settlement. Those who sued in California received much more in the 2006 mediated settlement. Why the disparity?

We enter all negotiations in good faith. Our goal is to equitably support all victim/survivors, including those who have not yet come forward, while continuing to carry on the other essential ministries of the Church. In some cases, the availability of insurance coverage has made additional funds available for victim/survivors. Most settlements have been funded entirely from our own limited resources, without insurance coverage. To maximize the funds available for victim/survivors, the archdiocese has sold property, used interest and investment income, liquidated savings and reduced its operating costs through staff, service and ministry cuts.
There will be a signed Mass by Fr. Zerkes on Sunday, December 19, 2010 at 9am at St. Matthias Parish Center 9306 W. Beloit Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53227

“Christmas Food Symbols”

Christmas Dinner

Family Style Dinner at
Meyer’s Restaurant & Bar
4260 S. 76th Street
Greenfield, WI  53220

Sunday, December 19, 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Cost: $20.00 per person
First come first serve

NO REFUND

Deadline Date: December 10, 2010

Make Checks Payable to ICDA #7

Send To:
Arvilla Rank
4744 W. Maple Leaf Circle
Greenfield, WI  53220

Name_____________________________________________________

Number of People ________ X $20.00 = $_______________
Hand in Hand

2010 FALL ISSUE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DEAF MINISTRY

Contact:
Terri Matenaer, Coordinator
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
3501 S. Lake Drive
Milwaukee WI 53235

deaftministry@archmil.org
262-321-0464—Voice/TTY
866-326-4713—VP

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City and Zip Code: __________________________________________________________________

Email address: __________________________________________________________________

Birthdays: husband ____________________ wife _____________________

Cost: $6.00 for January to December 2011 Newsletters mailed to your home.
Make checks payable to Deaf Ministry.
No cost if emailed.

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Milwaukee WI 53235

Email requests are welcomed: deafministry@archmil.org