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TERRI'S MEMO:



Dear Friends,
We are having a good summer with warm and cool temperatures. Not so many very hot days in the upper 90's.

New! Like us on

Facebook!

We have a new Facebook page (DHHMO: Deaf/Hard of Hearing Ministry Office). This has postings, announcements, etc. Check us out!

The Deaf/Hard of Hearing Ministry Advisory Committee (DHHMAC) welcomes two new people to serve on the committee. Shiloh Buchman from Elkhorn and Edgar Vizcarra from Milwaukee. Both members will serve for a two-year term. Watch for their bio in future issues of the Hand in Hand newsletter.

A very special "Thank You!" to our former DHHMAC members Jim Goddeyne and Sissy Zoellick. Both of these people have served on the committee for several years and I would like to thank them for volunteering their time, talent and support. We wish them the very best. God bless them both!

For the Catholic That! presentation last April, George Gontscharow explained his experiences growing up in Russia during World War II and his conversion from Orthodox to Roman Catholic faith. He

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FR. CK'S CORNER



By Fr. Christopher Klusman

Soon to be "Blessed" Solanus Casey

On May 4, 2017, Pope Francis made an exciting announcement that

a Wisconsin native will move closer to sainthood. Venerable Solanus Casey will become Blessed Solanus Casey sometime later in 2017 at a soon to be announced date in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The miracle needed for his beatification has been investigated and approved.

His birth name is Bernard Francis Casey. His family called him "Barney." He was born in a three room log cabin near Oak Grove, Wisconsin on November 25, 1870. Oak Grove, WI is north of Watertown and east of Beaver Dam, WI. He is the 6th child of ten boys and six girls. His parents, Bernard and Ellen Casey, were both from Ireland. When young, he had diphtheria which left him physically weakened, with a wispy voice. He moved with his family to Hudson then Burkhardt, which is east of the Twin Cities in Minnesota. Because his family were farmers, they did not have much money which didn't allow him much time for school. After he left the family farm at age 17, he worked throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota as a logger, a hospital orderly, a street car operator, and a prison guard. Because of this, he was able to send some money to his family.

It was his various experiences at various jobs, as

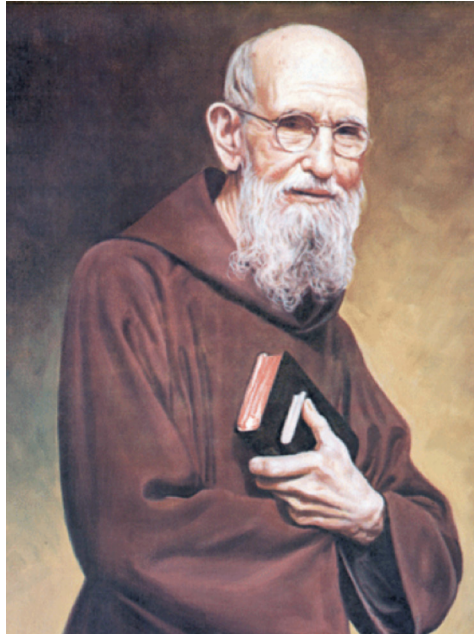
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MISSION STATEMENT - DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING MINISTRY

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee exists to enable all Catholic Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to participate fully in the liturgical, educational, pastoral, spiritual, and human concerns ministries in the Church.

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well as that unforgettable experience when he was driving his car in Superior, WI, when he was shaken by seeing a drunken sailor stab a woman in the street. At the age of 21, Bernard entered St. Francis High School Seminary in Milwaukee to study for the diocesan priesthood. Because it was a German seminary, he didn't do well in his classes due to the language barrier. He was told that he could not be accepted as a diocesan priest. Instead, he felt called to go to a Capuchin seminary in 1896 in Detroit. He was invested in the Capuchin Order at Detroit and adopted a new religious name, "Solanus." In 1904 at the age of 33, he was ordained a "simplex" priest, which meant that he could celebrate Mass, but was not able to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation and could not preach homilies. Instead, he was assigned the



job of doorman (porter) at a Capuchin Monastery. In that humble role, he was able to pray, offer counsel and to lead many people to Christ. He spent 20 years in New York, Harlem, and Yonkers. In

1924, he was moved to St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit where he served for 20 more years. In 1945, he returned to New York for one more year. Then he served in Huntington, Indiana from 1946 to 1956. Then he was reassigned to St. Bonaventure in Detroit again in 1956 to his death.

People waited in lines to see Fr. Solanus Casey. In time of trouble and sorrow, they sought his prayers and advice. He constantly showed his love of God by loving all of God's people. During his final illness, he said, "I'm offering my suffering that all might be one. If only I could see the conversion of the whole world." His last conscious act was to sit up in bed and say, "I give my soul to Jesus Christ." He died in Detroit at the age of 86 on July 31, 1957 and is buried at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit.

What was the miracle needed for Solanus Casey to be beatified? From the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints: A woman (her name has not yet been released) suffered from an incurable genetic disease. While visiting friends in Detroit, she decided to visit Fr. Solanus' tomb to pray for the intentions of a long list of people who needed prayer. After her prayers, she felt a nudge internally, urging her to ask for Fr. Solanus' intercession for herself. Reluctantly, she prayed for her own self and received an instantaneous and visible healing. Doctors in Detroit, in Rome, and her home country studied but could not explain it. So they declared the healing miraculous! What was interesting was that Fr. Solanus Casey had skin disease during the last years of his life too!

How wonderful it would be to call him "Blessed Solanus Casey" soon! Let's encourage others to pray to him that another miracle will happen so he can become "St. Solanus Casey!"

Soon-to-be-Blessed Solanus Casey, pray for us!

In Christ through Mary,
Fr. Christopher Klusman

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talked about how his family survived during the war and his move to the United States.

Todd Zoellick gave his presentation on Our Lady of Fatima. It was on the 100th Anniversary (May 13), the exact same date that our Lady of Fatima appeared to the 3 children in Portugal.

The International Catholic Deaf Association-United States Section (ICDA-US) had their Ninth Biennial Conference in St. Louis, MO. This happened at the end of June. They will also had a Young Adults program. We pray for a successful conference.

Our Young Adults had their 4th Annual Retreat with Fr. Christopher Klusman in August. Many young people joined him – what a successful retreat!



▲ *During the April Catholic That! presentation, George Gontscharow explained his childhood experiences growing up in Europe (Russia, Germany and Austria) during World War II and touring with the Sign Singing Group.*

May you have a blessed rest of the summer!

God bless,

Terri Matenaer, Coordinator

TO PLANT A GARDEN IS TO BELIEVE IN TOMORROW



Another school year of religious education for the Deaf has come to an end. This update from the Deaf Ministry is just a sprinkling how our students who attend the Wisconsin School for the Deaf had blossomed in their faith development.

I first want to recognize and share my appreciation for our gardening tools, teaching assistant, Roxy North, and my team teacher, Fr. Christopher Klusman; both of whom are Deaf. Led by the Holy Spirit they were wonderful cultivators. Establishing a strong, deep root system is important when planting. Elementary class focused on learning about God's heroes mostly focusing on the Old Testament. Some of the people we learned about were Noah, Abraham and Moses, all deeply rooted in their faith in God. We found out that following God's plan for you always yields good fruit.

The middle school and high school are studying the life of Jesus. Half of our class is unfamiliar with Jesus' teachings, miracles and most events surrounding His life on earth. His study of Jesus' life is on a 3 year cycle, and the students who are receiving this information for the first time are thirsty to learn more. They have been exposed to much Son light and are soaking it in.

In addition to this part of the curriculum, all the students learned about some fascinating lives of saints; more of God's heroes. These are role models for the kids to look up to and encouraged to emulate their decision to trust God during difficult times and good times. The kids were introduced to St. Juan Diego, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Veronica. Checking for comprehension for the lesson through role



▲ *Delavan Deaf Community group picture.*



◀ *Student signing the reading during Mass.*



▲ *Deaf Religion Education class gather for group picture after receiving their ashes on Ash Wednesday.*

playing and visual activities is always educational fun. Some of my favorite memories include reenacting the great flood and getting the animals on the ark. St. Francis befriending Brother Wolf and convincing him to change his mean ways and the villagers forgiving Brother Wolf. Finally making the image of Christ's face on cloth by crayon rubbings and seeing what St. Veronica saw on her veil when she was brave and comforted Christ by wiping his sweaty, bloody face on the road to Calvary.

Throughout the year we celebrated Deaf Mass with Fr. Christopher during Advent. We had the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas and then again during Lent. We prayed the Station of the Cross in church during Lent. Finally we celebrated our end of the year with another Deaf Mass with Father. All the students had the opportunity to participate in some role during the Mass through serving, proclaiming the readings, offering the petitions and gift bearers. Giving the kids exposure and participation in the Mass and celebrating the sacraments in their native language of American Sign Language (ASL) is vital. If not, here, then where? Access to interpreters at some of the students' homes, especially for religious education and services is limited. They either don't

attend or if they do attend, they do not understand what is happening when there is no interpreter for them. Here there is no need for an interpreter.

The kids have all their lessons, sacraments, prayers, Masses in American Sign Language without receiving information through an interpreter. The kids have full access with their peers to share and discuss because all of them are native ASL users. Is there another place in all of Wisconsin where classes like this and a Deaf priest is available to Deaf children? I do not know of any. We are truly uniquely blessed!

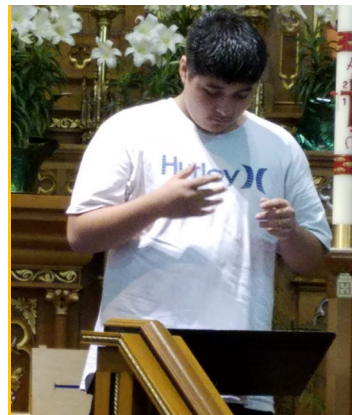
Speaking of interpreters ... in addition to Fr. Christopher's Deaf Masses, our 9:30 Sunday Masses are accessible through an amazing team of interpreters. There is a very short supply of religious interpreters trained to interpret the Catholic Mass. We are very blessed to have the team of interpreters we do have at our church during this drought. I accepted this position over a decade ago. What originally was to be solely a position for religious education for Deaf students evolved quite rapidly to encompassing the entire Deaf Ministry of



▲ Fr. Christopher, deaf religion teacher listening to students' responses about of the picture of a candleholder story at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



▲ Elementary students become wild animals gathering to board Noah's Ark.



▲ Student signing a reading during Mass.



▲ Student holds up St. Veronica's image of Christ's face on a cloth.



▶ St. Francis and Brother Wolf celebrate forgiveness and peace.

the parish. You might have noticed that for this entire year we have had Deaf adults and students feeling God calling them to proclaim His Good News in ASL through the readings at our Sunday, 9:30 Masses.

It is my prayer that St. Andrew parish recognize how rare Deaf ministry is in a parish. Enjoying the diversity and enrichment of the Deaf Community worshipping with us at St. Andrew, in addition to teaching the Deaf students our faith is a treasure where everyone thrives! The Deaf Community truly belongs here at St. Andrew.

We have sown seeds this year and it has fallen on fertile ground. We praise our Master Gardener for the opportunity to share our faith. Please accept this Deaf Ministry year-in review update as my thank you note for the nurturing support of the Deaf ministry by the people of God from St. Andrew.

Keep calm and plant something!

*Patty Kostechka
Religious Education Coordinator for the Deaf
St. Andrew, Delavan*

INTERPRETED AND ASL MASSES THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

St. Andrew Parish, Delavan

714 E. Walworth Avenue, Delavan, WI 53115
 Patty Kostechka's Phone: 262-728-9751
 Patty's E-Mail: patty.kostechka@charter.net
 Parish Phone: 262-728-5922
 Parish E-Mail: standrewsdelavan@sbcglobal.net
 Website: www.standrews-delavan.org
 Interpreted Mass: Sundays - 9:30am

St. Clare Parish, Wind Lake

7616 Fritz Street, Wind Lake, WI 53185
 Phone: 262-895-2729
 E-Mail: clarewl@tds.net
 Website: www.stclarewindlake.org
 Closed Captioning Mass: 2nd Saturday of the Month – 4:00pm

St. Dominic Parish, Sheboygan

2133 N. 22nd Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081
 Phone: 920-458-7070
 E-Mail: tewinkelel@catholicnorth.org
 Website: www.stdominic.us
 Interpreted Mass: Please Contact the Parish Office

St. Joseph Parish, Grafton

1619 Washington Street. Grafton, WI 53024
 Phone: 262-375-6500
 E-Mail: parish@stjosephgrafton.org
 Website: www.stjosephgrafton.org
 Interpreted Mass: 1st & 4th Saturdays at 4:00 pm,
 3rd Sunday at 10:30 am

St. Mary Immaculate Conception, West Bend

1610 Monroe Street, West Bend, WI 53090
 Phone: 262-338-5600
 Email: rprim@stmaryparisheswb.org
 Website: www.stmaryparishwb.org
 Interpreted Mass: 2nd Sunday of the Month - 9:30am

St. Matthias Parish, Milwaukee

9306 W. Beloit Road, Milwaukee, WI 53227
 Phone: 414-321-0893
 E-Mail: info@stmatthias-milw.org
 Website: www.stmatthias-milw.org
 ASL Mass in the Parish Center/Chapel
 With Fr. Christopher Klusman and Deacon David Sommers
 Sundays - 9:00am

St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Racine

6400 Spring Street, Racine, WI 53406
 Phone: 262-886-0530
 E-Mail: ckechter@stpaulracine.org
 Website: www.stpaulracine.org
 Interpreted Mass: Sundays - 10:00am

St. Peter Parish, Kenosha

2224 30th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53144
 Phone: 262-551-9004
 E-Mail: rectory@stpeterskenosha.com
 Website: www.stpeterskenosha.org
 Interpreted Mass: Sundays - 10:30am

Shepherd of the Hills Parish, Eden

(near Fond du Lac)
 W1562 County Road B, Eden, WI 53019
 Phone: 920-477-3201
 E-Mail: sgitter@sothparish.org
 Website: www.sothparish.org
 Interpreted Mass: 1st & 3rd Sundays - 8:15am

***Times Listed Are Subject to Change*
 As of September 1, 2017**



CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: Thursdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fr. Christopher Klusman
Associate Director
klusmanc@archmil.org
Office: 414-501-2022 (Videophone/Voice)

Terri Matenaer
Coordinator
matenaert@archmil.org
Office: 414-203-0552 (Videophone/Voice)
Home: 262-672-6823 (Videophone/Voice)

IMPORTANT: Fr. Christopher Klusman's text number for EMERGENCY ONLY: 414-793-1369.

Remember, an emergency is:

- A death in the family & make plans for funeral.
- Request for anointing and/or visit because of serious car accident, heart attack, life-threatening health issue, or sudden surgery. Tell me where to meet (hospital, hospice, home, etc.)
- Crisis: Abuse, domestic violence, alcohol/drug abuse, or thoughts of abortion or suicide.

If you have any questions about what is an emergency, please email me at: klusmanc@archmil.org

NOTE: Fr. Christopher Klusman is off on Tuesdays. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Terri Matenaer (see contact information above).

Please help us off-set the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter by making a \$6 donation for a one-year subscription.

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Email requests are welcomed: matenaert@archmil.org