

Hand Hand

Wishing you and your family a fun-filled Summer!

TERRI'S MEMO

Dear Friends,

Ahhhh! Summer is here! Hope you all have a blessed, enjoyable and safe summer with your family and friends. We had some events happened throughout the Archdiocese deaf community.

Delevan Religion classes wrapped up their CCD sessions. Please see Patty's wonderful article about the end of the year celebrations on page 2.

If you are looking for a good book to read this summer, check out Fr. CK corner about a book called "The Weight of a Mass." He made some good points about the Mass on pg. 4.

Few congratulations go out to George & Jean Gontscharow upon receiving an appreciation award from St. Peter's Parish in Kenosha for many years of services to the church (see pictures on page 5) and to Robert Zweber on his retirement of 45 years of service to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (see the reprint of his article from the Catholic Herald newspaper on pg. 6.

I participated in the one year anniversary of the Synod in the "Upper Room." As Archbishop ListECKI stated in his June 16, 2015 'Love One Another' letter: "Beside the great memories from this event, held

on Pentecost weekend last year, which was so significant for us as a local Church, the "Upper Room" this past Sunday was filled with committed believers who returned to celebrate, pray and learn about the Church moving forward." With the help of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry Advisory Committee, we are moving forward! We have a lot of work to do and we pray for the strength and patience to achieve our tasks. We need your help to make it happen to guide and shape the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for the next 10-15 years

I listed few events that might be of interest to you and your family to do this coming summer on page 9.

Hope you and your family have an enjoyable, relaxing summer!

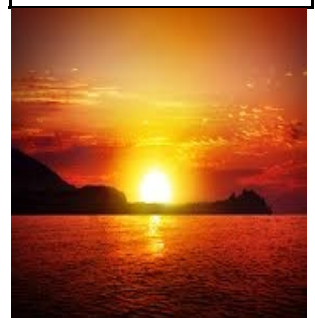
God Bless,

Terri Matenaer, Coordinator
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SUMMER 2015 ISSUE

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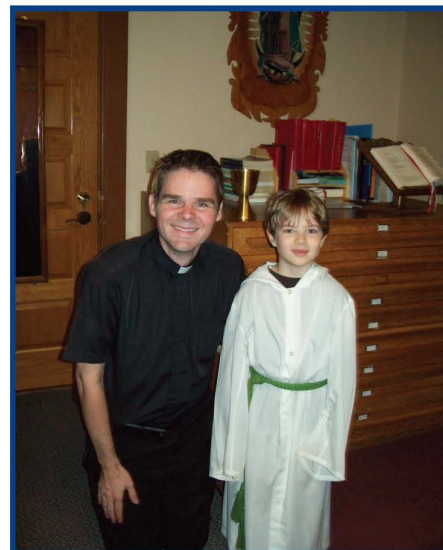
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St. Andrew Parish DEAF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTRY SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

What's Cooking in the Deaf Ministry?



This annual update to our St. Andrew Parish about the Deaf Ministry is filled with a *healthy diet of activities* and *sweet flavorful moments* as I share with you how we nurtured and helped develop the faith formation of our Catholic Deaf students who attend the Wisconsin School for the Deaf (W.S.D.) and receive religious education instructions here at St. Andrew.

We are a small group, but throughout the year we learned about the delicious-ness life brings when we are disciples of our Lord.

Our elementary classes really spiced things up. They come with curious minds and an appetite to learn anything and everything about how God works in our lives. There is a lot of drama in this class. We love to learn a story and then do a skit to check for comprehension. From the story of creation, to their shock about the fall of Adam and Eve, to the joyful coming of our Savior and making Mother's Day cards at our last class for our heavenly mother Mary, each session makes me smile as they learn first time news about our beautiful faith in our awesome God! There are no reservations in this class!





Throughout the middle school years the curriculum has them learning about the life of Jesus of Nazareth from his birth to his death and rising. We learn about how Jesus stirred things up with His teachings, miracles and how God loves us so much by sending His son as our Savior.

Our job in the high school classes was to continue to feed the flames of faith. We were proud that 3 of the students attending had already been confirmed last year, but chose to continue their faith formation this year. We also were grateful and supported one of our senior students who received the sacrament of Confirmation at our end of the year Deaf Mass.

Additionally at his last Mass, one of our adaptive education students who had spent the year preparing for his First Communion received the gift of everlasting bread from heaven.



The main ingredient for our recipe of sharing our faith with the kids is our team. I am grateful to teachers Rene Ambrose and Father Christopher Klusman, along with our teacher aide parishioners Courtney Gunville and Roxy North, (both W.S.D.

alumni and alumni of our Deaf religious education program.)

Blend all of the above together. Sprinkle it with humor, beef it up with prayer and BAM! We have a well done faith formation program.

In addition to proclaiming the Good News to the students, add to the mix our monthly Deaf adult Bible studies facilitated by Father Christopher, himself Deaf. The turnout for these Bible studies rivals all the adult formation groups we have at St. Andrew. Along with the Catholic Delavan Deaf community, Deaf believers from Madison and Milwaukee tend to travel here to learn more about their faith too.



Then for good measure this year we were able to celebrate monthly Deaf Sunday Masses in St. Andrew Church with Father Christopher.

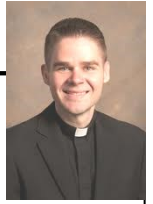
All classes, Masses and Bible studies happen in American Sign Language (ASL.) As you can see there is more than one pot boiling in the Delavan Deaf Ministry!

The fruits of our labor are in part supported by you, the parishioners of St. Andrew as the added ingredient. For that we send prayers of gratitude for you to our Savior who satisfies!

May all of us remain hungry for His Good News and reap the rewards of faithful service.

Patty Kostechka

Deaf Religious Education Coordinator
St. Andrew's Parish, Delavan



When we think about Mass, ask yourself this question: “Is it important? Valuable? Worthy?” If it is important, is it 3rd important, most important, least? Why or why not?

I came across a beautiful book called “The Weight of the Mass” by Josephine Nobisso and Katalin Szegedi. It is based on a true story and here is what happened...

In a small town in Luxembourg, the butcher was talking with a Captain of the Forest Guards. An elderly woman came into the shop. The butcher asked what she wanted, to which she replied that she wanted a little meat but had no money. The butcher asked how much money the woman can give, but she said, “I have no money, but I will hear Mass for you.”

Both the butcher and Captain didn't think much about religion so they laughed at her answer. The butcher said that the woman can go hear Mass for him and when she returned, he will give her as much meat as the Mass is worth.

When the old woman came back after Mass, the butcher took a small sheet of paper and wrote “I heard a Mass for you” on it. He placed a piece of meat on one scale and, surprisingly, the paper was heavier! The butcher then put a large piece of meat on the balance, but the paper was still heavier! Thinking it was a mistake, the butcher cleaned the scale and inspected to make sure nothing was broken, etc. The scale was actually working and accurate.

Then, the butcher put a large piece of meat on one scale and the paper still was heavier! Again, the butcher cleaned off the scale to make sure the scale was still accurate and it was! Then the butcher put a whole leg of mutton on the balance and the paper still was heavier! Finally, the butcher put a larger piece of meat on it, and the paper still was heavier!

The butcher was so impressed that he promised to give the elderly woman meat everyday! While he kept his promise, his

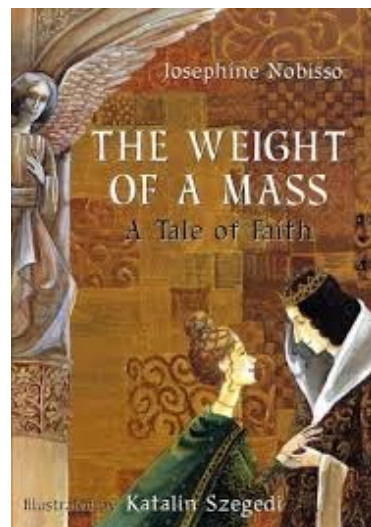
business grew more than it did before!

For the Captain, it changed him too. He began to go to daily Mass and his children saw how much he loved Mass and God. Beautifully, two of his sons became priests and one of them shared this story in a homily.

Isn't that an amazing true story? For me, it affirmed what I learned: that Mass is the most important thing to everyone, whether they know it or not. It is for me. Mass is #1. I can't ever miss Mass for anything (including going on vacation somewhere else), except if I am very sick. But, when I'm very sick, I become very sad because it is worse not being able to go to Mass.

Mass is not something I felt “I have to go in order to do my duty to God.” Mass is something I run to – to see heaven and earth come together. Mass is where I see the miracle of a piece of bread and wine changed into Jesus' Body and Blood. It is when I learn from God's Word through the readings, homilies, and prayers. And, another miracle is that we eat and drink Jesus' Body and Blood to be one with Him! Nothing tops that! I hope and pray that you pick Mass as the most important in your life and that you will do anything to never miss any weekend Masses (except during emergencies, like being very sick). Always remember the Weight of the Mass! See you at Mass! God bless always!

Fr. Christopher Klusman



George & Jean Gontscharow Receive Appreciation Award

St. Peter Parish, Kenosha, WI held its annual appreciation banquet on April 18, 2015. Among the recipients, George and Jean Gontscharow. About 15 deaf friends joined them and their family in the celebration.

Below are some of the highlight of their hard work over the years:

1977—Invited by Sr. Francine along with the Sign Singers to practice in the school's library.

1978—Started attending mass at St. Peter's. Fr. Stanly Saplis M.I.C. had embraced our Deaf community and allowed us to have our masses interpreted there. This was also the year they started volunteering at the festival in the soda booth. After a few years they started working in the corn booth and have worked there since.

1979—Along with the Sign Singers, they put on the show Godspell as a fundraiser for St. Peter's.

1980—They became members of St. Peters.

1999—Fr. Daniel Cambra M.I.C. sponsored George to attend the MFP (Ministry Formation Program) and became a catechist for the hearing impaired.

2003—With Fr. Bill Hayward, George became an extraordinary minister and a lector.

George served on the Parish Council for 3 years. Three of their children were married at St. Peter Church and most of their grandchildren were baptized there.

Jean has taught sign language classes in the past with Alexis Land and Betty Perry.

They have always enjoyed celebrating Mass with the parishioners of St. Peter's and fellowship with coffee and donuts in the cafeteria over the years.

Congratulations

George & Jean!



George & Jean receive appreciation award from St. Peter's Parish



George & Jean with friends at St. Peter's appreciation dinner



George enjoyed hula dance with ladies from Hawaii

Robert Zweber Retires After 45 years!

Employees of the Cousins Center or former residents of Saint Francis de Sales Seminary would recognize the sound of Robert Zweber walking through the building by the sound of his keys clanging against his hip.

With seemingly every key to every lock, he walks at such a rapid pace it's not unusual to hear Zweber before you see him.

While the sound of his keys ringing in the hallway is instantly noticeable to those around him, it's one that Zweber, even after 45 years of service to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, has never heard himself.

When he was 3 months old he contracted a fever of almost 105 degrees and permanently lost his hearing.

Perhaps one of the people working in the archdiocese who knows Zweber the best is Fr. Christopher Klusman, associate pastor at St. Roman Parish, Milwaukee, and director of the archdiocesan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry, who is partially deaf.

"A lot of times people aren't sure how to relate to us," Fr. Klusman said about deaf people. "We have a deaf culture. It would be like if I'm the only Spanish person or African person in a different culture."

As a seminarian at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, Fr. Klusman had lunch with Zweber every Wednesday.

"Robert and I, we just click," he said. "We just know. We don't have to explain. We don't have to educate. All we have to do is just say something and it's like, 'I know what you mean.'"

Zweber and his wife Pat attend Mass at St. Matthias Parish, Milwaukee, and occasionally go to the Mass for the deaf celebrated by Fr. Klusman.

Their most comfortable way of communicating with each other is through sign language. But



Robert Zweber, a member of St. Matthias Parish, Milwaukee, retired after 45 years of service to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. (Catholic Herald photo by Ricardo Torres)

most of the time, Zweber communicates with those who don't know sign language by writing notes on a notepad he keeps in his right breast pocket.

"I admire him for being open to that," Fr. Klusman said. "But at times he wants other people to learn sign language so that they can communicate with him rather than just writing back and forth."

This interview with the Catholic Herald was conducted using a notepad. Questions were posed on paper and Zweber wrote out his answers. During the interview, Zweber took his time reading the questions and occasionally, while in the middle of an answer, would look up from the notebook, stare at a blank space in the air and with one hand sign to himself, as if he was thinking out loud. Then he would continue writing.

Zweber began attending St. John's School for the Deaf, Milwaukee, when he was 3 years old, eventually living in the dorms and socializing with the other students. He also became a Boy Scout.

In 1969, he began working at the school as a 16-year-old, part-time maintenance worker. Zweber continued to work at the school until it closed in 1983.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

In 1970, Zweber went to a workshop for the deaf in Washington, D.C. at a Holiday Inn. There he met his future wife Pat, who was partially deaf. Her parents were unable to afford to send her to St. John's School for the Deaf so Zweber said he taught her sign language.

Two years later, in August 1972, the couple was married in the chapel of St. John.

After the school closed, Zweber worked at other archdiocesan facilities until he was assigned to the Cousins Center and Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in 1993 where he worked part-time at each location.

"At the seminary, some of the staff that worked with Robert took sign language classes with me so that they could learn to communicate with Robert," Fr. Klusman said, adding he taught them simple phrases like "hello," "thank you," and "how are you?"

"That can make a big difference in Robert's day," Fr. Klusman said.

In his spare time, Zweber enjoys cheering for the Packers, especially his favorite players — Aaron Rodgers and Clay Matthews. He and his wife have two sons, Bert and Perry, who are each married and have children.

When asked if he enjoys being a grandfather, a smile crossed Zweber's face and he quickly turned on his cell phone, which he uses for text messaging, and proudly showed off pictures of his grandchildren.

While he's working, he's constantly in motion, traveling from room to room with whatever equipment he needs, often doing more than is asked of him.

"He really cares about a lot of people," Fr. Klusman said. "He goes out of his way to help a lot of people."

In 2011, he began working full-time at the Cousins Center where he set up equipment for

events, made sure the hallways were clean and did small repair work.

Fr. Klusman calls him the "blue bunny." Blue, for the color of his maintenance uniform and bunny, like the Energizer Bunny.

"When you see Robert, if you blink you might not see him again," he said. "This guy has worked here for over 45 years and you would think he would be achy and old and slow and weak, but he acts like an 18 year-old."

Zweber, who retired March 31, said he hopes to travel, spend time with his grandkids and continue to cheer on the Packers.



Using sign language, Robert Zweber chats with Fr. Christopher Klusman, in the Catholic Herald offices in mid-March. Zweber began working for the archdiocese at the now-closed St. John School for the Deaf, Milwaukee, when he was 16 years old in 1969. (Catholic Herald photo by Ricardo Torres)

"I'm sad that he's retiring," Fr. Klusman said. "But I'm happy he can retire. He's deserved it."

This article originally appeared in the April 16, 2015, issue of the Catholic Herald. It is reprinted with permission. To subscribe, please call (877) 769-7699 or visit www.chnonline.org.

**Many Blessings,
Robert!**

Interpreted and Signed 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 Saturdays - 4:00pm

St. Dominic Parish, Sheboygan

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

St. James Parish, Menomonee Falls

W220 N6588 Town Line Road
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Phone: 262-251-3944
E-Mail: stjameschurch@bizwi.rr.com
Website: www.stjames-parish.com
Interpreted Mass
2nd & 4th Saturdays - 4:30pm

St. Joseph Parish, Grafton

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

St. Mary Immaculate Conception, West Bend

1610 Monroe Street
West Bend, WI 53090
Phone: 262-338-5600
Email: stmy@stmaryparishwb.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
Signed Mass in the Parish Chapel
Sundays - 11:00am with Fr. Christopher Klusman

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 - 10:30am

St. Peter of Alcantara, Port Washington

1800 N. Wisconsin Street
Port Washington, WI 53074
Phone: 262-284-4266
E-Mail: stpeterport@archmil.org
Website: www.capswecanconnect.com
Interpreted Mass
Please Contact the Parish Office

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

Good Shepherd Parish, Menomonee Falls

N88 W17658 Christman Road
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Phone: 262-255-2035
E-Mail: goodshepherd@gdinet.com
Website: www.mygoodshepherd.org
Interpreted Mass
Sundays - 11:00am

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

Events Happening Throughout Milwaukee...



Parish

Festival

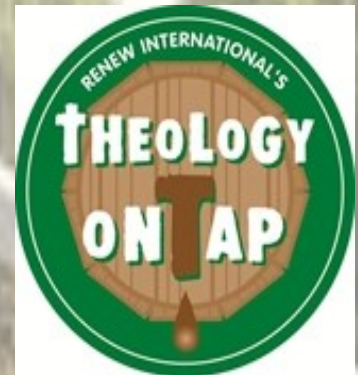
Check out the **Parish festivals** in Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Waukesha or anywhere in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee!

<http://www.archmil.org/Parishes/Parish-Festivals.html>

Theology on Tap is a summer speaker series for married and single young adults in their 20s and 30s. All talks start at 7:00 p.m. No registration required. Sign Language Interpreter will be provided at one TOT session on Thursday, July 16th: Humboldt Beer Garden; 3000 S Howell Ave; Milwaukee, WI 53207.

For more information contact:

Fr. Christopher Klusman at: klusmanc@archmil.org



festa   
ITALIANA

Festa Italiana Mass and procession will be held Sunday, July 19 in the Marcus Amphitheater at 11:00 a.m. Henry Maier Festival Park; 200 N. Harbor Drive; Milwaukee, (Sign Language Interpreter Provided)
<http://www.festaitaliana.com>

Irish Fest Mass Liturgy for Peace and Justice.
Sunday, August 16, 2015 in the Marcus Amphitheater at 9:30 a.m. Henry Maier Festival Park; 200 N. Harbor Drive; Milwaukee, WI 53202 (Sign Language Interpreter Provided)
www.irishfest.com



Mark Your Calendar

Closed Captioned Sunday Mass on TV

Heart of the Nation produces and televises weekly Sunday Mass nationwide, providing compassionate spiritual care for Catholics unable to participate in holy Mass at a parish. The Mass are filmed at our very own St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee. If unable to attend Mass at a parish, please join with us on TV for captioned Mass on Sundays on Channel 6 (WITI) at 5:30am and/or Channel 24 (WCGV) at 9:00am.



Heart of the Nation
MY SUNDAY MASS

Women of Christ

November 7, 2015

8th Annual Women of Christ Conference
Theme: Seeking the Truth: 2000 Years of
Scripture & Tradition

www.womenofchrist.net



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Men of Christ

March 12, 2016

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Milwaukee, WI 53203

www.menofchrist.net



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Empowering men to boldly live their faith!

Ministry Formation Program (MFP) for the Deaf

Do you want to know and learn about your Catholic Faith? Would you like to find out how you can serve as lay ministers? Then the Ministry Formation Program for the Deaf is a good place for you to attend. The Ministry Formation Program is a 4 year program that helps train Catholic Deaf Adults who wish to serve as active lay ministers. This program meets 6 times a year from September to May. The weekend starts Friday evening through Sunday noon.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2015-2016 School Year.

Registration Deadline is June 30, 2015

If you are interested in attending or would like more information please contact:

Sr. Rita Wigginton, OSU; 3105 Lexington Road; Louisville, KY 40206

(502) 416-0126 VP OR (502) 640-4957 Text or Voice OR email: rawigginton@gmail.com

OLD PHOTOS WANTED!

To all alumni who attended St. John's School for the Deaf, this is to let you know that Mark Hansen (Ex-'71) is now collecting original photos for the school history project. Any of you that have your PERSONAL snapshots, bring them to us for scanning. This will help us build a digital library. We will be glad to give it back unless you want to donate them to us. We will preserve those originals hopefully in an acid free scrapbook.

Some of you may taken the old PROFESSIONAL school photos from the 2010 Alumni Reunion or any other times, we want them BACK! Without that, we won't have a better history book, that is for sure. The sooner you help returning them, that would help shorten the research time for this history project.

We will appreciate that you help spread the word to other alumni who may not read about this here.

Thank you for your interest!

Mark Hansen Deaf Historian

Contact Information: deafarch@me.com

RELIGIOUS ASL WEEK 2015

July 12–July 17, 2015

This week long program will focus on a variety of aspects of the Catholic Mass. In light of the new English Translation of the Roman Missal; this workshop will be very helpful.

Bishop Lane Retreat Center

7708 E. McGregor Road; Rockford, IL 61102

This year's program is intended for

- **Priests, deacons and seminarians** who work with the Deaf Community
- **Working interpreters** who have been certified (or qualified in their state). Others can send DVD or video to establish skill level. (See registration form.)
- **Deaf ASL lectors** - members of the Deaf community who are **now** doing the readings for Sunday liturgies.

For more information contact Deb Beatty, Coordinator; DBeatty@RockfordDiocese.org
www.rockforddiocese.org/deafapostolate/raslweek



International Catholic Deaf Association - United States Section

July 26-30, 2015

8th Biennial ICDA-US National Conference

Theme: Life in Christ

Doubletree Hotel in Independence, Ohio

Proudly hosted by ICDA-US Chapter #18

New Addition to the Conference—Deaf Young Adults Events

www.icda-us.org



International Catholic Deaf Association - Midwest Region

April 22-23, 2016

40th Biennial Midwest Region Conference

Theme: Faith Journey Past to Present

Hotel: Chicago Marriott Northwest, Hoffman Estates, IL

Proudly hosted by ICDA-US Chapter #10

www.icda-us.org



Business Name

Contact Information

Office Hours ~ Wednesdays 8:30am - 3:30pm

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: 262-321-0464 (TTY/Voice)

Home: 262-672-6643 (Videophone)

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.

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

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

HAND IN HAND SUBSCRIPTION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and Zip Code: _____

Email address: _____

Birthdays: Husband _____ Wife _____ Anniversary: _____

If you don't have a computer, Hand in Hand subscriptions can be mailed to your home.

Mail subscription to:

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

3501 S. Lake Drive

Milwaukee WI 53235

Email requests are welcomed: matenaert@archmil.org