

**ARCHDIOCESE  
of MILWAUKEE**

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**FROM THE DEAF APOSTOLATE OFFICE**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
*"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever!"* (Psalm 107:1)

God is SO good! We have a very exciting announcement to share with you about our office.



Archbishop ListECKI has approved a new title for our office. We are most humbly grateful for this. Over the past several years, our office was called the "Deaf/Hard of Hearing Ministry Office." Now, it will be called "The Deaf Apostolate." This due to various reasons.

The main reason is that we want to be consistent with the other offices in the country, which are also called the "Deaf Apostolate." The archdioceses of Philadelphia, Boston and New Orleans, and the dioceses of Rockford and Joliet, and others, all use this title. The word catholic means "universal," and we demonstrate that by using this universal title. We all serve God's sheep together.

The word *apostolate* is defined as "all the activity of the Mystical Body directed to the goal for which the Church was founded, namely 'the spreading of the kingdom of Christ throughout the earth

for the glory of God the Father, to enable all men to share in His saving redemption, and that through them the whole world might enter into a relationship with Christ" (Paul VI, *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, 2). Due to our baptism, we are called and sent by God to share the Good News of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection to others, both through sign language and action.



In addition to the new title, it has been approved that the Deaf Apostolate is now under the supervision of our Auxiliary Bishop James Schuerman. You may remember him as the main celebrant for

Mass at our Midwest ICDA Conference last April 2018. We know we are in great hands with Bishop Schuerman. At the same time, for many years, we have been under the supervision of Eva Diaz and the Office of

Intercultural Ministries. We can't thank Eva Diaz and Letzbia Laing-Martinez enough for all their love, support, and wisdom. Our office is still located next to them and we will continue to collaborate and serve with them.

Because of the new changes that began last October 2018 through



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**MISSION STATEMENT - DEAF APOSTOLATE**

The Deaf Apostolate 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.

## FR. CK'S CORNER



By Fr. Christopher Klusman

During prayer, I read a verse from Psalm 137 that I imagined was scary for hearing people: *“Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you (God)”* (Ps 137:6a). If your tongue cleaves

to the roof of your mouth, it is impossible to speak, to talk. Also, the ability to taste is gone. The person becomes silenced, helpless, stuck. People who think nothing about the tongue all of a sudden realize its importance. I remembered learning how some martyrs' tongues were cut out and their ability to talk is gone. The enemies of Christ and the Catholic faith didn't want these martyrs evangelizing and spreading the Good News about Jesus and the Catholic faith through speech, hence their tongue being cut out.

What would that scary verse from Psalm 137 mean? It is the psalmist saying that if the person ever forgets God, then that person's tongue will stick to the roof of his or her mouth. I would often think that, while I never want to say anything bad about God or against God, but if I do, my punishment would be just and deserving for the tongue of my mouth to stick to the roof of my mouth. To offend God through speech would be a horrible, terrible thing.

The hearing person would never want to experience this helplessness. Imagine not being able to communicate – even not being able to taste. Not being able to say “hello” or “I need...” or “My name is...” Can you imagine no longer tasting another hot, soft chocolate chip cookie, a perfectly marinated steak, or even a nice can of bubbly, cold Coca Cola? Your tongue remains stuck on the roof of your mouth forever. That is scary.

The funny thing is that a deaf person could say, “I don't speak with my tongue and mouth, for I communicate with my hands. Something like that can't happen to me. I can still make shapes with my mouth that is needed for grammar, etc.”

But, I saw a picture by accident that changed all that!

There is an event in all three Gospels (Matthew 12:9-13, Mark 3:1-6, and Luke 6:6-11) that introduces us to another man, and this man has a withered hand. Now, that is something that would bother a deaf person. Here is a passage from the Gospel of Matthew.

*And [Jesus] went on from there, and entered their synagogue.*

*And behold, there was a man with a withered hand.*

► FR. CK'S CORNER - Continued on Page 2

## TERRI'S MEMO



Dear Friends,

The past several years, living here in Wisconsin, our winter season has been a rollercoaster of many cancellations and not much activities due, to extreme cold and snow. Currently, at the end of January and now in February, we have so much snow and severe cold weather than we have had in a long time. On Groundhog Day, they predicted an early spring and I am hoping it will still be true.

Last fall, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee hosted “The Amazing Parish” conference with over 1,500 people in attendance. Fr. Christopher Klusman, Jennifer Paul (Delavan Deaf Ministry Coordinator) and I attended this event. The purpose of this conference was to promote the renewal of parish life, which was one of the top priorities that emerged from the 2014 Archdiocesan Synod. The priority was meant to set the goal of transforming the focus of ministry from maintenance to mission. The three building blocks of the “Amazing Parish” conference are:

- 1) reliance on prayer and sacraments;
- 2) passion for evangelization and discipleship; and
- 3) commitment to a healthy organization.

All three of the building blocks corresponds with Archbishop Listeck's focus on:

- 1) Catholic identity;
- 2) evangelization; and
- 3) stewardship.

The foundation elements of the Catholic community are:

- 1) who we are;
- 2) what we do; and
- 3) how we do it.

What we learned will help us build our Leadership Team. I am thankful to the Archdiocese for inviting us to attend the conference and providing the interpreters for everyone to participate in the discussions.

Our Deaf Apostolate office is making some changes due to the restructuring of the archdiocesan offices. For the past several years, our office connected with the Office of Intercultural Ministries, and most recently with the Office of Evangelization. We are blessed to be under our Auxiliary Bishop James Schuerman. See more details on the front page.

Our Deaf Apostolate Advisory Committee is still working hard on finishing the Deaf Apostolate Pastoral Plan. Tricia

► TERRI'S MEMO - Continued on Page 2

► **FR. CK'S CORNER -**

Continued from page 2.

*And [the Pharisees] asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath?" so that they might accuse him.*

*He said to them, "What man of you, if he has one sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out. Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."*

*Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand."*

*And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, whole like the other.*

*But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him, how to destroy him."*

*(Mt 12:9-13)*

According to deaf culture, the hands are very precious and important because the hands are what we use to communicate through American Sign Language (ASL). For a deaf person to imagine a hand withered up is like

a death sentence! Having a withered hand for a deaf person is nearly equal to a hearing person's tongue stuck on the roof of his or her mouth. For my hand to be withered leaves me more silent, helpless, and stuck. My ability to sign becomes harder and more frustrating.



Then came a picture that blew my mind away! The picture was amazing! It shows Jesus' hand touching a deaf man's withered hand. Notice

that Jesus' hand does the "I love you" universal handshape and movement. The picture showed beautifully what Jesus would "sign" to heal that hand to complete restoration. That is another miracle by Jesus as the withered hand would be restored.

What a moment that is! You can see the fingertip of Jesus' index finger just touching the withered hand. It reminded me of the awe I felt when I stood below the Sistine Chapel ceiling



looking at God's powerful hand and finger reaching out to touch the lifeless and limp finger of Adam. Imagine, in a second, God's healing power that would shoot right into the withered hand thus restoring it *quickly*! Just like God's finger touching Adam's, thus bringing him into life! The transformation of how that deaf person who was silenced, helpless, and stuck now is made different, into being able to communicate better, to help others, and to be active. All because of Jesus.

Let us close with a beautiful prayer by St. Teresa of Avila: *Christ has no body but yours. No hands, no feet on earth, but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world. Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world. Amen.*

► **TERRI'S MEMO -**

Continued from page 1.

Condon, from Campbellsport, was recently appointed to serve a two-year term on the committee. Welcome aboard, Tricia!

Here is a list of upcoming events:

We will have Day of Reflection on March 24 for Lent. Men of Christ conference will be on March 30 and Women of Christ conference will be on November 1.

For Lent, we are planning on setting up a time to show a movie on Fr. Rene Roberts, who was killed in 2016. Fr. Rene worked at St. John's School for the Deaf in the

70's. We hope to show the movie sometime in April. Watch for more information soon.

We plan to provide a "Deaf History Month" for the staff here at the Cousins Center to spread awareness on Deaf Culture.

As we have begun the Lenten season this March, let us take time to grow in our relationship with God through prayer, repentance and providing for those in need.

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and always.

**God bless,**  
**Terri Matenaer, Coordinator**

► **DEAF APOSTOLATE -**

Continued from page 1.

the *Amazing Parish* Conference, as well as the arrival of our new Chief Operations Officer (COO) Brad Berghouse, and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Chris Brown, these changes to our office happened at the right moment. These changes also occurred during a special time: the 175th anniversary of our beloved archdiocese. Most of the valuable contributions and ministries of our Catholic Deaf community members in this archdiocese have been nationally recognized for more than a century with praise for their leadership, service, and example. We will continue to do our best to carry its storied legacy!

**Many Blessings,**  
**The Deaf Apostolate**

## DA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By Fr. Christopher Klusman

We are truly blessed to have an amazing Deaf Apostolate Advisory Committee (DAAC). They are your representatives for they come from various regions in the archdiocese. Each representative serves on a two-year term from October 1 to September 30, with an option to serve again for a second term. Altogether, our DAAC is diverse (as you can see in the pictures) and we are blessed with their many various God-given skills and talents. I'm in awe of what they all can do! Most importantly, they have a great love for God and His Catholic Church.

If you have any concerns or suggestions, please let one of these representatives know. They meet at least 4 times a year to advise the Deaf Apostolate on strengthening and continuing its mission to provide opportunities and access for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf Plus community in the archdiocese. For example, if there is a growing Catholic Deaf community in Fond du Lac, but no interpreted Mass available in the area, the DAAC will advise to begin creating an interpreted Mass in the area.

For the past several years, the DAAC has been working very hard on finalizing the Pastoral Plan, which are ministerial areas and goals that the Deaf Apostolate will do throughout the archdiocese that will carry forth the goals set from the Synod, such as Evangelization, Liturgy, Formation, etc. Other cultural groups, such as the Hispanic and Black Catholic communities, have their own Pastoral Plans. This valuable tool will help keep us on track in meeting the needs of the Deaf Apostolate and to ensure its successful continual and gradual growth. If any area(s) that are not successful, the



*Fr. Christopher Klusman*



*Terri Matenaer*



*Deacon David Sommers*



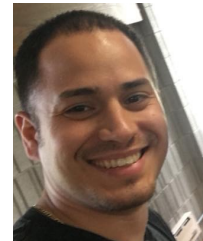
*Jennifer Paul*



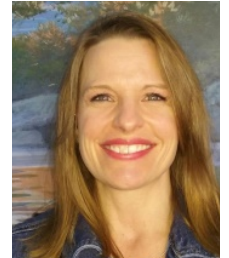
*Timothy Gall,  
Facilitator*



*Shiloh Buchman,  
Secretary*



*Edgar Vizcarra,  
Facilitator-elect  
(Vice Facilitator)*



*Tricia Condon*

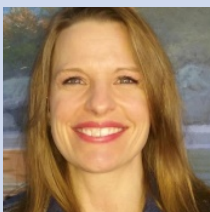
DAAC will assess why and advise on new suggestions for further improvements.

During our most recent winter DAAC session on January 20, 2019, we agreed to have a new representative that is a sign language interpreter so that s/he can advise as an expert about sign language interpreters in a Catholic setting. We have already begun work on having this new representative be appointed on the DAAC. We will announce who this exciting addition will be in our next summer Hand in Hand newsletter.

Keep us on your prayer list. St. Francis de Sales, pray for us! St. René Goupil, pray for us! Blessed Alessandre Planas Saurí, pray for us!

## NEW DAAC REPRESENTATIVE

By Tricia Condon



I, Tricia Condon, became a new Deaf Apostolate Advisory Committee (DAAC) Representative for the northern part of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on October 1, 2018. I am grateful to share my gifts and talents God gave me to serve in the DAAC. It is an honor to be part of the DAAC for

His Kingdom to come!

St. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 that God gave each of us parts with gifts and talents for the Church, Jesus! We all need one another for Jesus' glory to shine!

My family and I attend signed Masses at several Catholic Churches. It is an adventure and a blessing to go wherever there is a signed Mass. We attend our home church, Shepherd of the Hills (SOH) Catholic Church in Eden on the first and third Sundays of every month. Cathy Steffes, a member of

► **NEW DAAC REP. - Continued on Page 5**

## JESUS IN DELAVAN'S CORNER

By Jennifer Paul



Happy Spring! Hopefully, by the time you read this, the winter is far away behind us. It has been an incredibly difficult winter, with frequent school closures and

event cancellations. I have to admit, for a while there, I found my faith weakening and I was becoming fearful for our safety when the temperature took a very steep nosedive down to the negative fifties. We prayed for everybody's safety, and were immensely relieved to have made it through. Never again will we take heating for granted in the winter months.

But I want to tell you that in the midst of the brutal cold we had beautiful, warm moments. In particular, there are two warm moments that I want to share with you. The first warm moment occurred while our young Deaf Catholics were learning about the story of Jesus' birth and understanding what friendship means in one of our classes. We made use of a very uplifting movie, "The Star." Not waiting this article to be a spoiler if you have not seen the movie, let's just say that the movie is about the Nativity. But it is also a story about friendship.

Together, including myself, we learned how to be a friend. Having a friend does not mean having somebody to hang out with or being with somebody who likes the same things as we do. "Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter, who finds one a treasure" (Sirach 6:14). Having a friend is a blessing – and a responsibility. If you see a friend making bad choices, or one who is in pain, it is supposed to hurt you, too. You must step in and be Jesus' face for your friend to guide them. Vice versa, we need to surround ourselves with friends who care for and love us. If our friends tell us they are worried about our choices and our state of mind, be thankful, for they do so with love.

In our class, Fr. Christopher Klusman shared a couple of examples from the Bible about friendship like Jesus and Lazarus (John 11:32 – 36), David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1), and Ruth and Naomi (Book of Ruth). We also covered many 'real-life' scenarios, exploring what being a good friend is like and what being a not-so-good friend is like.

We must also try to be a better friend of Jesus. Being a friend of Jesus means sharing Him with people in our circles and those who cross our paths. Being a friend of Jesus means learning more about Him and His teachings, by reading

the Bible, going to Mass, listening to our Catholic leaders, elders and friends as they talk about Him, and trying to be more of Jesus' friend every day in every aspect of life. This is a lifelong Catholic journey.

Another warm moment that I want to share with you is the use of 'VLOGs' for our monthly Delavan Happenings newsletters. With the support and encouragement by Fr. Christopher Klusman at Archdiocese of Milwaukee Deaf Apostolate, and Fr. Oriol Regales at St. Andrew and St. Patrick Parishes, the YouTube account was created to distribute the monthly Delavan Happenings videos. The first video was made for the November newsletter and it has been well received by the Deaf Delavanites.

God willing, we can expand the use of the VLOG technology to share the Good News with our friends. I would like to think it is one of the many ways we can be Jesus' friends. Please be a friend, and let us know how we can make the most of the wonderful VLOG technology from our corner – where we are always warm with Jesus' love.

**Your friend in Christ,**  
*Jennifer Paul*

### ► NEW DAAC REP.- Continued from page 4.

SOH, volunteers her time to sign Mass for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I am very thankful for her time and service to make it possible for us to worship our Lord in our language! I am also very grateful that our priest, Fr. Mark, supports the deaf and hard of hearing needs at SOH.

My son, Nolan (10), and my daughter, Ella (5), attend school at our home church. It is truly a blessing my children have the opportunity to learn about God's love and the Catholic Faith in their daily lives at school. We attend St. Mary's in West

Bend every second Sunday with Linda Hillebrand, who volunteers to sign Mass. I am very thankful for her love and service for the Deaf. Every fourth and fifth Sunday, we either travel to St. Joseph in Grafton, St. Joseph in Waukesha, St. Matthias with Fr. Christopher in Milwaukee, or I ask for an interpreter to come and sign at our home church in Eden. It is an awesome blessing to have interpreters come and sign with our Lord! I am thankful God made all of us and that we have one another with Jesus in the center.

It is truly a blessing we have signed Masses everywhere just like when Jesus traveled everywhere, He didn't stay in one place!

It is a JOY, feeling God's presence in the church with signs while I listen and learn with all my mind and all my heart!

I pray the Lord will help you and I be the people He wants us to be. It is a blessing to serve our Lord and His loved ones! It is also a blessing we have the DAAC program to help bring God's people – many parts: priests, deacons, deaf, hard of hearing, interpreters and many more – together in His Church!

As written in 1 Corinthians 13: "Love is the greatest!"

**Praise His Name!**  
*Tricia Condon*

## LIFE-CHANGING CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

By Shiloh Buchman, Secretary, Deaf Apostolate Advisory Committee



“Take Courage... Be the Light.” Those words based, on Psalm 27:1, were the theme for the 10th Annual Women of Christ Conference,

held on November 3, 2018, at the Washington County Fair Park in West Bend, WI.

I attended the Women of Christ Conference (WOC) with my three teenage daughters. It was my second year attending. The first year I met friends at the conference, but I didn't invite anyone to come with me because I wanted to experience the day by myself. The day was amazing! But going alone was a mistake. The WOC is life-changing; it's meant to be shared! Thus, in sharing the experience with my daughters, I was unknowingly living the theme of being the light.

As a matter of introduction, the annual format of the WOC is relatively consistent. The day-long event includes an on-site Mass, an emcee, guest presenters, the rosary, a Eucharistic procession, lunch, and opportunities for Adoration, the Sacrament of Confession, and shopping. The day is as full as it sounds. But more than being full of activities, this event will fill one's heart.



**DR. SCOTT HAHN**

The 2018 WOC opened with Mass, presided by Archbishop Jerome ListECKI. Seeing thousands of women

holding hands during the Our Father and lining up to receive the Eucharist was



inspiring! There were four presentations scheduled, each one lasting about 45 minutes. Crystalina Evert started with a presentation about being the whole person God intended you to be regardless of your relationship status. After Crystalina's presentation, my daughters rushed out to the shopping area to purchase Crystalina's books so they could bring her message home. The next presenter was Dr. Scott Hahn, a personal hero of mine. Dr. Hahn is a former Protestant who studied the Catholic faith in depth before choosing to convert to Catholicism. His books and explanations of Catholic teachings were crucial to my own religious conversion. His presentation was detailed and intense! Next was lunch, which offered time to eat, shop, and socialize. The day's presenters were available, with their merchandise, in the shopping area. They signed books, CDs, clothing, etc. (I cried when I saw Dr. Hahn at his booth. It was surreal!) Lunch was also a good time to line up for Confession or spend time in the adoration chapel. For anyone who couldn't fit Confession, adoration, or shopping into the lunch hour, those activities were also available throughout the day for people to attend at their convenience.

After lunch, Fr. Philip Schumaker gave a humorous presentation about the joys and challenges of growing up in a Catholic home with a large family. He

encouraged us to be the light in our own homes while raising our families. Then, there was a break for the rosary procession. This year, the rosary

procession was my absolute favorite part of the WOC! Many women stayed inside the warm building to pray the rosary. My daughters and I joined the walkers and braved the cold as we journeyed around the pavilion with our rosary beads. Between the fresh air and the thousands of voices honoring our Lord's journey, I couldn't keep my emotions hidden. It was very powerful!

The last formal presentation was by Sr. Marie Veritas of the Sisters of Life. Sr. Marie impressed on us the value and dignity of human life. Everyone's life is created by the Creator and is therefore sacred and unique. It was precious! At the close of the event, Bishop Jeffrey Haines led the Eucharistic procession and benediction. This was another one of my favorite parts of the WOC. Many women knelt. Those who couldn't kneel, sat and bowed as Our Lord passed by in the monstrance. It was humbling – and awesome!

The 11th Annual Women of Christ Conference will be held on November 9, 2019, at the same location, the Washington County Fair Park. If you have never attended, I encourage you to go – but not alone. Take courage, and be Christ's light. Invite friends and family members to attend this inspiring, successful, intense, fun, surreal, encouraging, powerful, precious, humbling, and awesome day with you. It is life-changing!



**FR. PHILIP J. SCHUMAKER**

## WEEKEND AUTUMN RETREAT ON OUR LADY OF FATIMA

### By the Deaf Apostolate

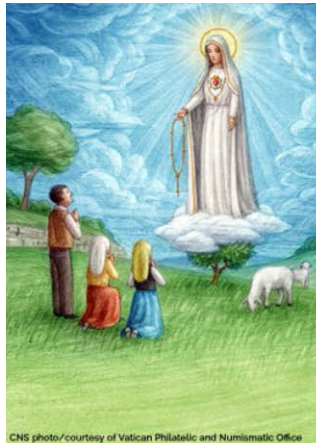
On November 9 to 11, 2018, we were extremely honored by the presence of Fr. Mike Depcik, Oblates of St. Francis de Sales (OSFS), who is a Deaf priest. He was born and raised in Chicago, but now serves in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan. He came to lead our weekend retreat at St. Matthias Catholic Parish, to guide us in better understanding Our Lady of Fatima. The Catholic Deaf community came from all over the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, as well as from Madison, Green Bay, and La Crosse! Some even came from Michigan and Kansas. It was a special experience of being together, especially with old friends from out of town that we haven't seen in ages.

Fr. MD, whom he is referred, came at a perfect time because it was the 10-year anniversary of the last time he led us through a weekend retreat in 2008. At that time, the retreat was held at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha, WI.

Fr. MD gave us a fascinating history about Our Lady of Fatima and the impact she had on the lives many, many people, including Sr. Lúcia, St. Francisco, and St. Jacinta. He explained the extraordinary events leading up to, during, and after the appearances of Our Lady of Fatima.

Fr. MD reminded us of Our Lady's frequent requests for daily prayer. He helped us to learn new, or review, various ways of praying, including the precious, much-loved, and powerful rosary. He helped us learn about the importance of Our Lady of Fatima's request to live daily like Jesus, her dearest Son.

Throughout the retreat, Fr. MD allowed us to ask him questions about our



▲ *Our Lady Of Fatima, the focus of the retreat.*



▲ *Fr. MD shows where Our Lady appeared in Fatima, Portugal.*



▲ *Participating during Saturday Mass.*



▲ *Retreatants enjoy fellowship during the retreat.*



◀ *Fr. MD teaches retreatants about the importance of daily prayer, as requested by Our Lady.*



◀ *Sunday Mass was crowded that another room was needed.*



▲ *Sunday Mass in our chapel at St. Matthias.*

Catholic faith so that we can learn and understand better our Catholic faith.

On Saturday and Sunday, Fr. MD celebrated Mass, with the assistance of our Deaf deacon, David Sommers. Something noteworthy: Sunday's Mass in our chapel was so full that we had to open up another room for overflow. Gratefully, another Deaf man, Tom Meitner, of Watertown, WI, came prepared with his technological talents. He was able to set up the equipment

so that the Mass can be filmed live so those in the overflow room could participate in the Sunday Mass.

We are truly thankful for Fr. MD's presence and time with us, due to his very busy and demanding schedule. It is always a treat for us having him with us!

Our next weekend Deaf retreat will take place during the Lenten season of 2020. We will keep you posted as to who will be our next retreat presenter.

## HE IS COMING

By Arvilla Rank



On December 16, 2018, 65 people gathered at Meyer's restaurant for the annual Ephpheta Sodality of St. John the Baptist/ICDA Chapter 7 Mass and

lunch. The theme was: "He is Coming." Fr. Christopher Klusman celebrated the Mass with the assistance of Deacon David Sommers.

After Mass Rob Kordus III entertained the group with a magic show. He did a beautiful job. The show was followed by a delicious lunch. Chairperson of the event, Edgar Vizcarra, developed a PowerPoint on the story of St. Nicholas and presented it to the group. He showed how the life of St. Nicholas brought us to the present-day Santa Claus. He also did a fantastic job of telling us about the true meaning of Christmas by reminding us of the events surrounding Jesus' birth and by saying, "He is coming." He has an outstanding ability to tell a story, and the PowerPoint helped.

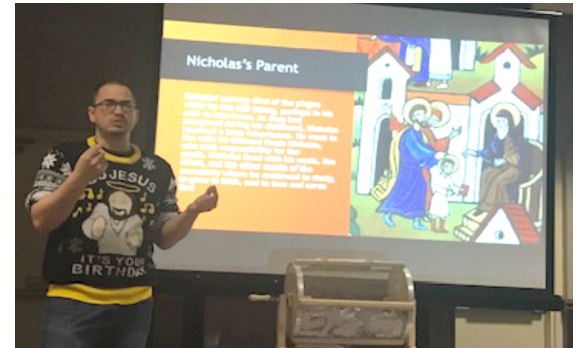
Guests joined us from various parts of Wisconsin and some from Chicago. Arthur Roehrig may have come the furthest – he came "home" to Wisconsin from Washington, DC. He planned his trip to visit family so he could attend the luncheon and see his old friends from St. John's School for the Deaf. Mary Ann Giuntoli, of Austin, Texas, who was in Wisconsin visiting her daughters, also joined us. It was a good time to see old friends and make new friends.

I checked with some of the people who attended the event. This is what they remembered and stuck with them:

"Food was great. I was very



▲ Fr. Christopher gives the homily at Mass.



▲ Edgar Vizcarra sharing the story of St. Nicholas.



◀ Edgar reminding us of the importance of looking at the real meaning of Christmas: Jesus' Birth.

◀ Deacon David Sommers receives a door prize.

▶ Beautiful Christmas centerpiece decoration.



impressed with Edgar's presentation about St. Nick, and it was nice to see friends that you don't see often."

"I enjoyed the ICDA Christmas luncheon this last December. I especially enjoyed Edgar Vizcarra's presentation of St. Nicholas. He did a great job in his story from Santa Claus to Jesus at Christmas. The committee did a good job on the nice door prizes at the end."

"The ICDA Christmas Party is a fun tradition to attend every year! Some of us have known each other for years and sometimes we have not seen each other recently or in a long time. It is a joy to see many smiles and people hugging each other with happiness. People come

from all over Wisconsin, traveling from Madison, Kenosha and Green Bay areas. One of the enjoyable parts of the day is celebrating Mass with Fr. Christopher and Deacon David Sommers, eating a delicious meal and then watching Edgar's presentation."

"We loved the delicious lunch, the magic show, the raffles, and prizes."

"It was really nice to have Mass with other Deaf from different places. Edgar and Marisol did a great job of planning this event. I loved learning more about St. Nicholas, as well as being reminded of the importance of the real meaning of Christmas: Jesus' Birth."



## FOLLOW HIS STAR

By Margaret Calteaux



The National Catholic Office for the Deaf (NCOD) held its annual Pastoral Week at the Hilton Downtown in Fort Worth, Texas,

from January 10 to 14, 2019. Its theme was: "Follow His Star." Along with some friends, we arrived a few days before the conference to explore and learn about the area. We drove around Dallas and visited some places such as the George W. Bush Library and the 6th Floor Museum where the assassin shot President John F. Kennedy. We also did some shopping in the Stockyard in Fort Worth.

This is my ninth consecutive NCOD conference that I have attended. Of all the NCOD conferences I attended thus far, each one is unique by its theme and location. This conference had many good speakers such as Kate Slosar, co-director of Ministry with the Deaf, from the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey. She talked about "The Hidden Faces of the Deaf Ministry." One statement she made that struck me was how we can tell the stories of the Bible in order to help us understand them in contemporary time and language. "My Faith: In Journey of Deaf/Blind Person" was presented by Patrick Vellia, from Charlotte, North Carolina. He shared some amazing stories of how he learned about his Catholic faith and how he is educating the Church about accommodations needed for the Deaf and Deaf/Blind. He is very determined in keeping his Catholic Faith strong. There were many other wonderful speakers sharing their expertise.

We were surrounded by many good restaurants and shops within a good walking distance from the Hilton,



▲ I was thrown in jail for not being "Texan" enough.



▲ Wisconsinites at the Banquet.



▲ Priests and server with Most Rev. Steven J. Raica.



▲ I got my "Texan" style!

Fort Worth. In addition to many good businesses around the hotel, we had an opportunity to see a rodeo in the Stockyard arena. This was a first time I have ever been to a live rodeo. I was impressed to see the little kids scrambling in the arena during the intermissions. During the first intermission, the kids were allowed to try and catch a pig, and during second intermission, a baby calf. They all were very cute. The next day we walked to St. Patrick's Cathedral and had Mass with the bishop and their community. The Cathedral was beautiful and the people were very hospitable.

The conference wrapped up with a fun-filled banquet. Sr. Judith Desmarais was the recipient for the 2019 Fr. David Walsh Pastoral Worker of the Year award, and Fr. Rich Luberti accepted the award on her



▲ Longhorns trotting down the street.

behalf. Raffles were drawn for a free membership, a free one-night hotel stay for next year, a free conference fee, and for the 50/50 raffle. Food was good and the fellowship was fun, especially the photo booth. I'm looking forward to the next conference in 2020 in Kansas City, Missouri.

## BIRTHDAY MILESTONES

By Fr. Christopher Klusman



Before St. Valentine's Day, we had two major birthday milestones for two Deaf people that are very dear to us: Sue Koehn, who turned 80, and Todd Zoellick, who turned 50!

When we found out that Sue was turning 80, we couldn't believe it! This was the same for Todd. The reason why we couldn't believe it for both of them is that they appear, act and look younger than their actual ages. They really had us fooled!

It was an honor to celebrate their birthdays after Mass at St. Matthias Parish Center, and we hope that God will continue to bless them more and more! We both humbly thank them both for the many things they do for the Deaf Apostolate!



◀ Todd Zoellick, celebrating his 50th birthday with us, alongside his wife, Sissy and son, Zack.



▲ Sue Koehn, celebrating her 80th birthday with smiles!



▲ Fr. Christopher Klusman presides at Mass, and is assisted by Dcns. David Sommers and Scott Wiese.

## MASS AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH

By Fr. Christopher Klusman



On Sunday, January 20, 2019, the Deaf Apostolate was invited by St. Joseph Parish in Grafton to celebrate their beautiful 10:30 am Mass. Fr. Christopher Klusman presided the Mass with the assistance of Deacon David Sommers and their deacon, Scott Wiese. We were so thrilled with a great

turnout of the Deaf community, which also included many representatives of the Deaf Apostolate Advisory Committee (DAAC). We wanted to thank Edgar Vizcarra for proclaiming the First and Second Readings in American Sign Language (ASL) and Tricia Condon (be sure to find her column in this newsletter) for beautifully signing the Responsorial Psalm and leaving us in tears of awe. We also are thankful for our two phenomenal sign language interpreters, Jill Doering and Linda Hillebrand, for their generous service.

After the Mass, the parish generously provided an amazing and delicious lunch for all of us. We enjoyed interacting with their sweet parishioners. They truly made us feel we are part of their parish family and they are so thoughtful, hospitable and kind. After the Mass and delightful reception, the DAAC gathered for their winter meeting. We can't thank enough the Parish Director, Brenda Cline, and her amazing parish for having us! Please keep them on your prayer list for continued blessings.



# COME AND JOIN US!

**SUN. APRIL 14, 9 AM**  
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

**TUES. APRIL 15, 7:30 PM**  
Interpreted Chrism Mass at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral  
(812 N. Jackson Street Milwaukee, WI 53202)

**THURS. APRIL 18, 7 PM**  
Holy Thursday Mass (Washing of the Feet)  
8-9 pm Holy Hour

**FRI. APRIL 19, 2:30 PM**  
Stations of the Cross Prayer Service  
3 pm Good Friday Service

**SUNDAY APRIL 21, 9 AM**  
Solemnity, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

**Where: Parish Center (behind big Church) St. Matthias Catholic Church**  
**9306 W. Beloit Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53227**  
**w/ Fr. Christopher Klusman and Deacon David Sommers**

**Any Questions? Contact: Terri Matenaer, [matenaert@archmil.org](mailto:matenaert@archmil.org)**





## ASL & INTERPRETED MASSES FOR HOLY WEEK SUNDAY, APRIL 14 – SUNDAY, APRIL 21

– INTERPRETED MASS –

**St. Andrew Parish, Delavan**

Palm Sunday – 9:00 a.m.  
Good Friday Service – 12 p.m.  
Easter Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

**St. John the Evangelist (Cathedral)**

Mass of Chrism – 7:00 p.m.  
812 N. Jackson Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53227

**St. Joseph Parish, Grafton**

Good Friday Service – 12:00 p.m.  
Easter Sunday – 10:30 a.m.

**St. Mary Immaculate Conception Parish, West Bend**

Palm Sunday – 9:30 a.m.

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Racine**

Palm Sunday – 10:00 a.m.  
Good Friday Service – 12:30 p.m.  
Easter Vigil (Saturday) – 8:00 p.m.  
Easter Sunday – 10:00 a.m.

**St. Louis Church, Caledonia**

Holy Thursday – 6:30 p.m.

**St. Peter Parish, Kenosha**

Palm Sunday – 10:30 a.m.  
Holy Thursday – 7:00 p.m.  
Good Friday Service – 12:30 p.m.  
Easter Sunday – 10:30 a.m.

– CLOSED CAPTIONED MASS –

**St. Clare Parish, Wind Lake**

Palm Sunday (Saturday) 4:00 p.m.  
Easter Sunday – 9:30 a.m.

*\*Times Listed are Subject to Change\**

## INTERPRETED AND ASL MASSES THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

### - ASL SUNDAY MASS -

#### St. Matthias Parish

9306 W. Beloit Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53227  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
E-Mail: info@stmatthias-milw.org  
Website: stmatthias-milw.org  
Note: If no ASL Mass, then will have an interpreted Mass in the main church.

### - INTERPRETED SUNDAY MASS -

#### St. Andrew Parish

714 E. Walworth Ave, Delavan, WI 53115  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
E-Mail: deafministry@saspcatholics.org  
Website: standrews-delavan.org

#### St. Joseph Parish

1619 Washington St, Grafton, WI 53024  
1st & 4th Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. / and 3rd Sunday at 10:30 a.m.  
E-Mail: parish@stjosephgrafton.org  
Website: stjosephgrafton.org

#### St. Mary's Immaculate Conception

1610 Monroe St, West Bend, WI 53090  
2nd Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
Email: rprim@wbparishes.org  
Website: stmaryparishwb.org

#### St. Paul the Apostle Parish

6400 Spring St, Racine, WI 53406  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
E-Mail: svrana@stpaulracine.org  
Website: stpaulracine.org

#### St. Peter Parish

2224 30th Ave, Kenosha, WI 53144  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
E-Mail: stpeterskenosha@gmail.com  
Website: stpeterskenosha.com

#### Shepherd of the Hills Parish

W1562 County Road B, Eden, WI 53019  
1st & 3rd Sundays at 8:15 a.m.  
E-Mail: sgitter@sothparish.org  
Website: sothparish.org

### - CLOSED CAPTIONED MASS -

#### St. Clare Parish

7616 Fritz St, Wind Lake, WI 53185  
2nd Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.  
E-Mail: bulletins@tds.net  
Website: stclarewindlake.org

**\*Times Listed Are Subject to Change\***  
**As of March 1, 2019**

## SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

### By the Deaf Apostolate

Stay tuned, in suspense, for our upcoming summer *Hand in Hand* newsletter! This newsletter will be a very "special edition" because it will feature articles and photos in honor of our Archdiocese of Milwaukee's 175th Anniversary! The Catholic Deaf community has been a big part of this archdiocese's storied history, so we know you will enjoy this coming newsletter very much!



**ARCHDIOCESE  
of MILWAUKEE**

# 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](mailto:klusmanc@archmil.org)

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

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## HAND IN HAND SUBSCRIPTION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdays: Husband \_\_\_\_\_ Wife \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Deaf Apostolate**  
**Archdiocese of Milwaukee**  
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