



Signs of the Times



Volume 59

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<u>Two</u> Special four Page inserts enclosed!	
Christmas pictures & speech by our Holy Father	

Bible Study!

Saturday—February 27th
1—3 PM at Diocesan
Administration Building
in Rockford.

Lent Begins Ash Wed.
Feb. 17th to
April 3rd

The Law of Fasting and Abstinence:

*(These rules do not apply to
women who are pregnant or
people who are sick)*

Fast: [age 18-59] You may
eat 2 light meals and one
regular size meal. No
snacking between meals
(unless doctor says you
need to or need to take
medicine; drinking milk
water and juice is ok.)

Abstinence: [all ages] Eat
Fish is ok. No meat
(chicken, beef, pork)



Deaf Christmas Party 2009

Deaf Ministry was Topic at Annual Vatican Health Conference

Deaf Catholics got to share their needs with the Vatican thanks to a diocesan presence in Rome. Msgr. Glenn Nelson attended "Ephphata! The Deaf Person in the Life of the Church", the 24th Intl. Conference sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Workers on Nov. 19-21, 2009. Interpreters signed the pope's words to deaf participants during the audience in the Clementine Hall of the papal palace. The Vatican invited many deaf and hearing religious who are fluent in sign language and brought together people from 65 countries who were involved in the pastoral, social, psychological and medical care of those who are hearing impaired to discuss ways the church could provide the proper support for the deaf. Msgr. Nelson said the conference was an opportunity for the deaf Catholics of the world to share their needs with the Vatican and also for the Church to give thanks to the deaf for their gifts and their work. Translations of the speakers' addresses were done into four different sign languages: American, British, Spanish and Italian. Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, president of the council, **said** there are more than 278 million deaf people in the world, and at least 1.3 million of them are Catholic. Without sign language, a deaf person would be unable to hear the voice of God. (some information on this article compliments of The Observer). Please see special insert on what our Holy Father said and his recommendations enclosed

Diocesan News



From the Director:
Msgr. Glenn L. Nelson

My Dear Friends in Christ,

What an exciting 6 months it has been! I was blessed to have the wonderful opportunity to attend the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Workers in Vatican City which focused on the Deaf Person in the Life of the Church. I have to say how moved I was to see history in the making. To see our wonderful Catholic Church open her doors to the many good and faithful Deaf Catholics and to genuinely hear their stories and try to learn from them in order to improve access and provide spiritual nourishment was truly touching. Presenters were wonderful. I hope that we continue to pray so that what was started in Rome will continue to grow so that deaf Catholics in the United States and around the world will benefit and grow in their faith and love of God and that the Church universal will learn to appreciate the gifts that deaf and hard of hearing Catholics bring to the Church.

Please know that I will continue to do what I can to promote the cause. I have included in this newsletter a copy of the recommendations that came from the conference in regards to deaf ministry. They are well thought out and very positive. I have also included for your information what our beloved Pope said when he addressed us at the conference. I think you will find his words very pastoral. Let us remember to pray for our pope and bishops who love us so much.

I also want to thank all who contributed to our Christmas Raffle. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped to make our raffle such a wonderful success! Thank you too for all the volunteers for the Jack Mabley Center Christmas party [and the one in Dekalb]... Christmas was truly joyful this year, even though the economy is so difficult. Thank you for your generosity.

I want to remind you that our Retreat starts in March (March 12,

13 and 14 at Bishop Lane Retreat Center, Rockford). I know that many of you who have gone enjoyed it and I encourage you to attend. We will focus on the Mass and I think you will enjoy the presentation. See back page for registration form.

Also, I will be presenting a Deaf Bible study class on February 27 at the Diocese of Rockford Chancery building in Rockford. I know you have been very patient with all the responsibilities I have so Lent is always a good time to learn more about our faith. Our topic will be on the History of the True Cross of Jesus! I hope that you can come and learn more about the salvation Jesus won for us on the Cross.

God bless you all!!!!



Monsignor Nelson's New Video Phone Number is (877) 215-2219



We would like to remind everyone to visit Fr. Mike Depcik's website for his weekly video blog. Visit www.frmd.org

Easter Basket Blessing Saturday—April 3, 2010 10:00 AM Newman Center, DeKalb

Join Monsignor Nelson and have your Easter Basket Blessed!



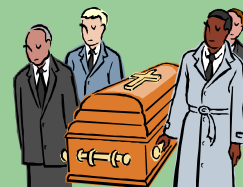

Please pray for...

Those who are sick:

Joyce Pusateri— Sister of Bernadette Torba
And members of our Deaf Apostolate who may be sick

Those who have died:

Leon Bongey—July 13, 2009
Brother of Jenny Manalli and Clara Vilani, husband of Janet Bongey
Deanne (Seymour) Korst—January 18, 2010
Daughter of Steve and Pam Seymour
Goldie Greer—January 11, 2010
Mother of Larry (and Ileana) Durbin



Ash Wednesday, Holy Triduum, Confessions Schedule

Ash Wednesday, Holy Triduum and Easter Mass Schedule

AURORA
(Interpreted)
St. Joseph Church
722 High Street

Ash Wednesday Feb. 17th
7:00 PM

Holy Thursday April 1st
7:30 PM

Good Friday April 2nd
7:30 PM

None Saturday

Easter Sunday April 4th
10:30 AM

ELGIN
(Interpreted)
St. Thomas More
215 Thomas More Drive

No Interpreted Mass

CRYSTAL LAKE
(Interpreted)
St. Thomas Church
Route 176 & Oak

Ash Wednesday Feb. 17th
Upon Request

Easter Sunday April 4th
9:00 AM
(Contact Mary so she can reserve pews. Arrive early as parking lot fills up quickly!)

Triduum Masses upon request
please contact Mary Donner at
dockie50@yahoo.com

ROCKFORD
(Interpreted)
Holy Family Church
Alpine & Highcrest Roads

Ash Wednesday Feb. 17th
7:30 PM

Holy Thursday April 1st
7:30 PM

Good Friday April 2nd
7:30 PM

None Saturday

Easter Sunday April 4th
9:30 AM



Ash Wed. February 17th
April 1st-2nd-3rd, 2010
Easter April 4th, 2010

Good Friday is a day
of Fast and Abstinence

DeKALB
Newman Center
512 Normal Rd.

Ash Wednesday Feb. 17th
Deaf Mass 7:30 PM

Holy Thursday April 1st
Interpreted 7:30 PM

Good Friday April 2nd
Interpreted at Noon

None Saturday

Easter Sunday April 4th
Deaf Mass 10:15 AM

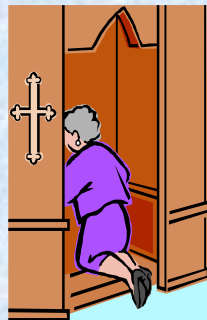
Confession Schedule

AURORA
St. Joseph Church
722 High Street

February 28, 2010
8:30 to 9:00 AM

ELGIN
St. Thomas More
215 Thomas More Drive

March 7, 2010
After 11:30 AM Mass



CRYSTAL LAKE
St. Thomas Church
Route 176 & Oak

March 7, 2010
8:30 to 9:00 AM

ROCKFORD

March 14, 2010
10:30 to 11:30 AM

At Bishop Lane Retreat House

Amboy
St. Patrick Church
32 N. Jones Avenue

March 6, 2010
4:00 to 4:30 PM

Freeport
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
1400 Kiwanis Drive

By Appointment

DeKALB
Newman Center
512 Normal Rd.

March 29, 2010
7:00 PM

Printable colored copies of our Newsletter and event information is
Available on our website:

<http://DeafApostolateRockfordDiocese.weebly.com/index.html>

(If you no longer want a mailed copy and prefer e-mail, contact DBeatty@RockfordDiocese.Org)



Lenten Retreat

Deaf Ladies of the Visitation

Proudly hosts

3rd Annual Lenten Retreat for the Deaf With *Monsignor Nelson!*

March 12, 13 and 14, 2010
Bishop Lane Retreat Center
7708 E. McGregor Road, Rockford, Illinois 61102

~ "Mass: Beautiful and Powerful" Celebrate the Year of the Priest -- Deaf Mass ~

Costs for Each Person:

- \$90.00 for 2 nights (Shared Room/two twin beds)
- \$100.00 for 2 nights (Private Own Room/one full size bed)

Includes:

5 meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on Saturday, Breakfast and Lunch on Sunday), Linens and Towels.
Deaf Ladies of the Visitation will provide snacks for Friday and Saturday nights.
Can't spend the night? Register for a day for \$15.50 and it includes Lunch!

Arrival at Bishop Lane Retreat: Friday, March 12, 2010 at 7 pm.
Departure: Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 2 pm.

REGISTRATION DUE: **MARCH 1, 2009**

3rd Annual Rosary Lenten Retreat for the Deaf
Registration Form per Person

(Check)

- \$90.00 for 2 nights (Share Room/two twin beds) (March 12th and 13th nights)
- \$100.00 for 2 nights (Private Own Room/one full size bed) (March 12th and 13th nights)
- _____ \$ 15.50 Saturday only, March 13th, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM includes Lunch
- _____ \$ 15.50 Sunday only, March 14th, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM includes Lunch
(limited number of rooms available, reserve early!)

Total: \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TTY OR VP (CIRCLE): _____

Make a check/money order to "Deaf Apostolate". Mail the check/money order and copy of form to:
Deaf Apostolate Office, Attn: Deb Beatty, DLV, PO Box 7044, Rockford, IL 61125
For more information, please contact Cathy Signor, cathy.signor@yahoo.com or VP Dawn 815-965-9840
(See our website for flyer and directions)
<http://deafapostolaterockforddiocese.weebly.com/retreat-flyer.html>

Special insert Jack Mabley 2010 Christmas Section

Another successful year of hosting a Christmas Party for the residents of the Jack Mabley Developmental Center in Dixon!



Thanks

Please pray for Louis Villapiano who died 12/10/2009. Louis volunteered every year thru Archdiocese of Chicago to help with Jack Mabley party. He was loved by all and will be missed.



Made possible by volunteers of the Rockford Deaf Apostolate and Chicago Office of the Deaf (Fr. Joe Mulcrone, Deacon Casey Fronczek and Richard Kush and the Deaf of Chicago Archdiocese)



Thank you to all our volunteers who donate their time and treasures to those who are less fortunate. We could not do this without you!



Special insert 2009 Christmas Party



Congratulations Cathy Signor on your Ministry Formation Program Graduation! Way to Go!!!



Special insert 2009 Christmas Party

The Deaf Ladies of the Visitation and the Deaf Apostolate Office would like to thank everyone who helped in selling raffle tickets and to everyone who helped our Ministry by purchasing a ticket. Congrats to all!

Winner of the Wii Console—Juanita Trevino

Winner of the 19" LCD HDTV—Cathy Signor who donated it to the poor

Winner of the Sanyo Digital Camera— George Kutilek

Winner of the DVD Player- Angela Cortez



Special insert 2009 Christmas Party



Your never too old to enjoy Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus!



Thank You
Mr. & Mrs.
Claus
For
Another
Great
Christmas!



ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE
24th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY
THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR HEALTH-CARE WORKERS

*Clementine Hall
Friday, 20 November 2009*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am pleased to meet you on the occasion of the 24th International Conference organized by the Pontifical Council for Health-Care Workers on a theme of great social and ecclesial importance: "Ephphatha! The hearing-impaired person in the life of the Church". I greet Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, President of the Dicastery, and thank him for his cordial words. I extend my greeting to the Secretary and to the new Undersecretary, to the Priests, Religious and Lay People, to the Experts and to everyone present. I would like to express my appreciation and my encouragement for your generous commitment to this important sector of pastoral care.

Indeed, the problems that beset deaf people, who have been made the object of attentive reflection in these days, are numerous and delicate. It is a situation on different levels, which ranges from the sociological horizon to the pedagogical, from the medical and psychological to the ethical and spiritual and the pastoral. The reports of specialists, the exchange of experiences among those who work in this field, the testimonies of the deaf themselves have offered the possibility for an in-depth analysis of the situation and for the formulation of proposals and guidelines for an ever more specialized attention to these brothers and sisters of ours.

The word "Ephphatha" as the beginning of the title of the Conference's theme, calls to mind the well-known episode in Mark's Gospel (cf. 7: 31-37) which is paradigmatic of how the Lord works for deaf people. Jesus took aside a deaf mute and, after making some symbolic gestures, raised his eyes to Heaven and said to him: "'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened'". At that moment, the Evangelist says, the man's ears were opened, his tongue released, and he spoke plainly. Jesus' gestures are full of loving attention and express deep compassion for the man who stood before him. The Lord showed the deaf man his concrete concern, drew him aside from the confusion of the crowd, made him feel his closeness and understanding by several gestures full of meaning. He placed his fingers in his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. He then invited him to turn his interior gaze, that of his heart, together with him to the heavenly Father. Finally, he healed him and restored him to his family, to his people, and the crowd, marveling, could only exclaim: "He has done all things well; he even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak!" (Mk 7: 37).

By his way of behaving which reveals the heavenly Father's love, Jesus does not only heal physical deafness but points out that there is another form of deafness of which humanity must be cured, indeed, from which it must be saved: it is deafness of the spirit, which raises ever higher barriers against the voice of God and that of one's neighbor, especially the cry for help of the lowliest and the suffering, and closes the human being in profound and ruinous selfishness. As I had the opportunity to say in the Homily during my Pastoral Visit to the Diocese of Viterbo

last 6 September: "we can see in this "sign' Jesus' ardent desire to overcome man's loneliness and incommunicability created by selfishness, in order to bring about a "new humanity', the humanity of listening and speech, of dialogue, of communication, of communion with God. A "good' humanity, just as all of God's Creation is good; a humanity without discrimination, without exclusion... so that the world is truly and for all a "scene of true brotherhood"' (Homily, Mass in Faul Valley, Viterbo, 6 September 2009).

Unfortunately experience does not always testify to acts of prompt acceptance, convinced solidarity and warm communion for people who are unable to hear. The numerous associations that have come into being to protect and promote their rights, highlight the existence of a discontent society that is marked by prejudice and discrimination. These are deplorable and unjustifiable attitudes because they are contrary to respect for the dignity of the deaf and their full social integration. Far more widespread, however, are the initiatives promoted by institutions and associations, in both the ecclesial and civil contexts, that are inspired by authentic and generous solidarity and which have contributed to improving the living conditions of many hearing-impaired people. In this regard, it is important to remember that in the 18th century the first schools for the religious instruction and formation of these brothers and sisters of ours were being founded in Europe. From that time on charitable institutions in the Church increased, impelled by priests, men and women religious and lay people, whose purpose was to offer the hearing-impaired not only an education but also an integral assistance for their complete fulfillment. However, it is not possible to forget the serious situation in which they still live today in the developing countries, both because of the lack of appropriate policies and legislation and because of the difficulty in obtaining access to primary health care treatment. Deafness, in fact, is often the consequence of illnesses that can easily be treated. I therefore appeal to the political and civil authorities, as well as to the international organizations, to offer the necessary support in order to promote, also in those countries, a proper respect for the dignity and rights of deaf people, encouraging their full social integration with adequate assistance. Following the teaching and example of her divine Founder, the Church is continuing to accompany the various pastoral and social initiatives for their benefit with love and solidarity, reserving special attention for those who are suffering, in the awareness that it is precisely in suffering that a special strength is concealed, a special grace which brings the human being inwardly closer to Christ.

Dear hearing-impaired brothers and sisters, you are not only recipients of the Gospel message but also legitimately heralds of it, by virtue of your Baptism. Thus you live every day as witnesses of the Lord in your living contexts, making Christ and his Gospel known. In this Year for Priests, you are also praying for vocations, so that the Lord will inspire numerous good ministries for the growth of the ecclesial community.

Dear friends, I thank you for this encounter and entrust all of you who are present here to the motherly protection of Mary, Mother of Love, Star of Hope, Our Lady of Silence. With these wishes, I cordially impart to you the Apostolic Blessing, which I extend to your families and to all the associations which actively work at the service of the hearing-impaired.

XXIV INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Ephphata! The Deaf Person in the Life of the Church
19-20-21 November 2009

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

By organizing this Conference devoted to the Deaf Person in the life of the Church, the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Workers has intended to send a strong message so as to underline the fact that the problems linked to the hearing disability of deaf persons, living members of the Church, deserve attention as was stressed by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, during the Papal audience granted to the participants of this XXIV International Conference, with these words: “you are not only the recipients of the announcement of the Gospel message, but are, by full right, also the agents, by virtue of your Baptism”.

In fact, the difference in this conference, with respect to others organized in the past on various types of disabilities, lies in the desire to stress the fact that hearing disabilities, purely sensorial, must necessarily be dealt with separately from other physical disabilities even when speaking of faith and religious practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For the full integration of deaf persons in the life of the Church, this Assembly proposes:

1. That there be a central office of the Church, on a national level, that handles and coordinates pastoral work for deaf persons.
2. That each diocese have at least one priest with the necessary competencies in this specific sector so that he may be a reference point for deaf persons for the sacraments (confession- in particular), for the liturgy and for catechesis.
3. That there be a course for seminarians to orient them towards this field of special ministry and that they may be encouraged to deepen their knowledge of the world of the Deaf and possibly also learn sign language, should they show interest in this type of pastoral work.
4. That there be greater attention, from bishops, to solving the problems of the Deaf so that in the diocesan program for pastoral and catechetical work room is also made for catechesis and pastoral work for and with the Deaf and that some deaf persons also be part of this ministry.
5. That in large cities there be a church/parish where the liturgy allows the active participation of people with hearing problems.

6. That parochial and diocesan programs for pastoral work devote particular attention to deaf persons and their families. It would be beneficial to have a deaf person and some people who are parents collaborate in the drawing up of same.
7. That there be a catholic website where current topics of faith are discussed. The site should also make it possible to follow the Mass with the homily. When ethical issues of political significance arise, the site should make it possible to better understand them.
8. That deaf persons also be given the chance to attend courses on religious science organized by the diocese.
9. That, in order to minister to the needs of people who do not know sign language, of people who have become deaf or people who became deaf as adults, pastors make arrangements to furnish all those places where the liturgy is celebrated with video screens.
10. That on a national level, there be identified suitable institutions for the promotion of vocations and for the training of deaf candidates for religious life and the priesthood.
11. That the dioceses keep a register of certified interpreters that can be called to interpret the Mass or do other work required in church.
12. That, in order to remove all obstacles to the full social integration of deaf persons, as underlined by the Holy Father, there be implemented appropriate laws, conventions and protocols that aim to create those legal conditions that will facilitate the integration of deaf persons both in the training circuits and in the work circuits so that they, too, can bring their talents to fruition (Mt 25, 14-30) and contribute on all levels, each according to his or her own gifts and abilities, to the good of all of society.

The experience of these three days, while it gives us joy and hope on the one hand, it must also serve as an incentive to us to work ever harder and better so the call, no, the cry of Jesus – EPHPHATA – Open! – may resound in the hearts of all the deaf, be they right next to us or scattered around the world.