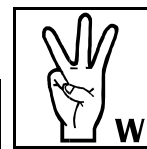
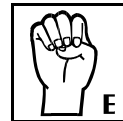
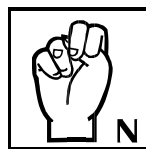




NCOD

Western Region



August 2002
Volume 1, Issue 1

NEWS FROM YOUR WESTERN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Finally, we have been able to get a newsletter out to you regarding “Happenings” in the Western Region of NCOD. It has been a busy time for all and so many great things are going on in the West. Thank you to all those who submitted articles on their Deaf Ministry programs. Isabella Rice (Deaf & Disabled Ministry, Diocese of Phoenix) has agreed to put together our newsletter and then send it to me to print and mail out. Let us all offer a big “thank you, hugs and prayers” to Isabella for taking on this job of “Editor” of our NCOD Western Region newsletter. Pah, Pah Isabella

NCOD is busy preparing for its upcoming annual Pastoral Week Conference. It will be held in beautiful Savannah, Georgia. The dates are January 17 to 23, 2003. Theme for the conference is “Transitions II: Move Mountains”. Currently there is a call for both Presenters and Interpreters. If you have a special program or expertise you would be willing to share, make contact with NCOD’s website: www.ncod.org and get a Call for Presenter’s form or an Interpreter’s form if you would like to interpret at the conference. There are also some wonderful pictures of our California Pastoral Week Conference this past January. Go on the website today and keep in touch with what is happening around the nation.

Talking about websites. If you have a special website for your Deaf Ministry program share it with us! We will post them in our next newsletter and I will also post it on our local website, www.rcbo.org, under the Dept. of Catholic Deaf Ministry. This is a great way for us to share resources and information with Deaf Catholics visiting and/or moving to a new area. Together we can move mountains!

On the national level we are looking for your input on any publishers and publications dealing with ASL and Religious Sign Language. Our current Catholic Sign Language book is out of print and obsolete and NCOD is exploring how best to meet the need for appropriate Catholic Signs in our communities. If you have any suggestions or input, feel free to send it to me at: cwild@rcbo.org Of course, using snail mail is fine also. My address is: Connie Wild, Catholic Deaf Ministry Office, 2050 West Chapman Avenue, Orange, CA 92868. I can also take calls at 714/940-0880 tdd or faxes at 714/939-9905.

Fr. Mike Depcik is coming to the West Coast! Fr. Mike will be here December 6,7,8, 2002 to give one of his fantastic Deaf Retreats. This retreat will be held at the beautiful hill-top Marywood Center in Orange, CA. If you are interested, contact me for a brochure. If any others have Fr. Mike scheduled to visit them, share the news with us. Those who know Fr. Mike realize what a deep, spiritual life he leads and how he can open his heart to share with us. Learning about our relationship with God through Fr. Mike is an awesome experience.

Finally, know that I am here to share with you in any way I can. Don’t be shy... share your dreams, your successes and ask your questions. We can help each other through our newsletter to learn and support one another. This is your newsletter and your chance to be

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newsletter to learn and support one another. This is your newsletter and your chance to be involved.

Our next newsletter deadline is September 23 for the **October 2002**. You are also welcome to include pictures. Please e-mail newsletter articles and pictures to Isabella Rice at: irice@diocesephoenix.org. We would like to get a newsletter out before the holidays to share more information on Pastoral Week, 2003. Any questions please feel free to contact me anytime!

As we gear up to begin our new Fall sessions of Religious Education and programs may God's numerous graces fill your heart, may the Holy Spirit give you the Wisdom and energy you need, and may our Mother Mary walk with you in your blessed Ministry.

Prayerfully Yours,
Connie Wild

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC DEAF COMMUNITY IN ORANGE

We are just two weeks away from our Religious Education Fall session starting. And we are still recovering from our last session! We had both our Confirmations (4 youths) and First Holy Communion (3 children) in June. It was a beautiful celebration that we held at the Brothers of St. Patrick's residence in Midway City, CA. Fr. Kerry Beaulieu, our Deaf Chaplain, as well as Vicar of Priests for our Diocese, was main celebrant. We had about 80 people join us afterwards for a outdoor patio potluck luncheon. The weather was perfect, too.

Besides hosting the Pastoral Week Conference this past January, we also became involved in our diocesan Disciples in Mission program during Lent. Sr. Linda Roby (Portland, OR) was wonderful in helping us get started and her staff has translated some of the materials into ASL for Deaf communities. So if you are interested in being involved in Disciples in Mission contact Sr. Linda for more information on their program. One of the great results of our DM program is that we continued to have Faith Sharing groups meet after the Lenten season was over. We had groups in ASL, English and Spanish. Everyone in the community can be involved.

We were blessed to receive a grant that enabled us to buy a Power Point projector for our community. Connecting it to our laptop we can display pictures at Mass and use it for presentations that become more interesting and keep us awake!

We are now getting ready for a Car Wash to be held in August so we can start a Youth Ministry fund. We hope to raise money to send our Deaf youth to leadership camps or World Youth Day next year. If we can raise half of the funds other sources of funds become open to us, so, we will see how it goes. We also have an annual See's Candy drive that begins in August. It is always successful and helps us pay for our retreat and other expenses.

This summer has been so busy as we have two weddings and 4 Baptisms to prepare for. God has indeed been good to us and keeps us busy too! We hope you can take a minute to visit us at our website: www.rcbo.org. Click on Diocesan Offices and then on Deaf Ministry and there you are. May each of you have a grace filled "new school year". Enjoy the final weeks of summer. God Bless!

NEWS FROM SAN FRANCISCO

We have not received a report from San Francisco but with good reasons. St. Benedict's Church for the Deaf has a new pastor and Director, Fr. Tom Coughlin!!

Congratulations to Fr. Tom and members of St. Benedict. Not only is Fr. Tom now in California but his House of Studies for Deaf Seminarians and Religious have received a warm welcome from Archbishop Levada of San Francisco Archdiocese. Archbishop Levada has "adopted" the Deaf Seminarian program. Let us pray in

thanksgiving for his generosity. There are now three Deaf seminarians residing and studying at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California. The other two Deaf seminarians are continuing their undergraduate studies at a local college and will reside with Fr. Tom at St. Benedict's.

In addition, this Fall there will be two new additions to the House of Studies, Louie Reside of Manila, Philippines becomes a candidate to religious brotherhood and Sara Chen, also of Manila will become a candidate to religious sisterhood. Let us all join in prayers of thanksgiving for Fr. Tom's wonderful ministry and may we unceasingly continue to pray for more vocations in service of Deaf Ministry.

HOLY ANGELS

Holy Angels Church of the Deaf in Vernon, California has a new full-time staff member. His name is David Rose. He will be the Church's Administrator. He is no stranger to Holy Angels as he has served in that capacity in the early 1990s under the leadership of Fr. Brian Doran. Now with his Masters degree in Special Education and he is in his fourth and final year in the diaconate formation, he will oversee the function of the Church. Also, he is close to completing a credential in Public School Administrator. He will help Pastor Fr. Thomas Schweitzer in many ways. David is hard of hearing and is married to Lisa, his wife of thirteen years. He has three children: Elizabeth, 5; Melissa, 3; and Benjamin 18 months.

The CCD Program will once again be open to registration at Holy Angels during the month of August. Last years program was a huge success, with overflowing numbers of deaf and hearing children pouring in, that the program has to be expanded to include the third Mass to go along with our usual two Masses. Many classes had to be intertwined with three Masses to accommodate the large number of students and, at the same time, they participated fully in our Liturgy. This year will be a repeat of last years program and Holy Angels Church will be ready to serve them with the help from staff and volunteers.

Thanks to a large donation, we have been able to expand our patio and garden to accommodate the large number of people that has flowed in to our Church in the past year. Pastor Schweitzer is thankful for such a donation that would allow us to improve the scenery on the Church's property.

OREGON

Blessings!! Sr. Linda and the Portland Catholic Deaf Community

Summer greetings from Oregon, to all of our friends in the Western Region of NCOD!!

Our most recent big event "up here" was our annual outdoor Mass at The Grotto, held on June 30th. Fr. Dan Adams celebrated the Mass in Sign, and a talented group of ASL performers from our Deaf Community presented the First Reading in drama form. We always teach the entire congregation a few Signed Mass responses, and it's thrilling to have several hundred people joining us by praying in Sign.

Our NEXT event will be to support the two Deaf teams who will participate in the famous "Hood to Coast Relay" and the "Portland to Coast Walk" on August 23 and 24. The team organizers, and MOST of the walkers, are members of our Catholic Deaf Community...so we're really proud to be one of their main sponsors. A recent Pancake Feed was a big fundraiser for this event.

Sr. Linda Roby, Jean McQuiggin and Howard Hammel have been keeping out of trouble this summer by using a great deal of their time to translate the final Faith-Sharing booklet for the *Disciples in Mission* program. We'll use these materials next Lent in our small group faith-sharing. They will also be available on the web for other Deaf

Newsletter

Deadline

September 23, 2002

Send your information
to

irice@diocesephoenix.org



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Communities whose entire dioceses are participating in this evangelization program.

We're looking forward to our Catholic Deaf Camping Weekend at Camp Taloali, Sept. 13 – 15. Fr. Dan will lead our Saturday morning workshop, as we explore ways that Deaf Culture and liturgy can be combined.

Check-out our new website at www.archdpdx.org/deaf.

NEW MEXICO

It is good to have you as our NOOD West representative, Connie!

Greetings from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in the Great State of New Mexico! The past year, we had approximately 20 Catholic students from the New Mexico School for the Deaf coming to our once-a-week CCD classes at St. Anne's Parish. This is the first year we have been back in our "home parish" since NMSD is within the boundaries of St. Anne's. We received a lot of support from the pastor, Fr. Clarence Maes, and the CCD coordinator for the parish, Sister Jo, including classroom space and resources. Six persons volunteered their time to teach: Ardith Montano and her daughter, Tina, Ernesto and Inez Ortega, Christine Ortiz and myself. I also want to mention a wonderful "Go-fer" - Trini Romero. At the end of the year, three students: Gloria Padilla, Warren Keller and Carla Raymond received the Sacrament of Confirmation along with 45 other teenagers from St. Anne's Parish.

This summer, the National Catholic Office for Persons With Disabilities (NCPD) is holding their Summer Institute in Albuquerque. Ardith Montano is presenting a session on the "Needs and Realities of Rural Catholics", specifically the deaf since New Mexico is a largely rural state. I served on a panel of four persons discussing how the Catholic church in New Mexico has responded to and embraced those with various disabilities.

In Santa Fe, we continue to have two interpreted Masses each Sunday at St. Anne's and St. John's. In the Albuquerque area, there are six Catholic churches that offer interpreted Masses as well as one in the rural area of Espanola.

Dolores Gonzales, Volunteer Pastoral Worker
226 Sombrio Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87501

ARIZONA

The office has gone through some "restructuring". The Association of Pastoral Ministers of Care is now finding a home under our umbrella here at the diocesan center. This group of people bring services to those who are homebound, in nursing homes, hospitals and deal with bereavement. Many of our jobs cross each other so it seemed logical to start working "smarter" and not harder. We are hoping to offer basic training courses for volunteers and paid staff alike. This would include basic Theology, Christology and Bible Study, giving everyone the same base courses with specialties coming later.

Our Deaf ministry is growing. Over the summer we have added two new parishes to those offering Interpreted Masses. We are also blessed to have one of our Pastors showing an interest in Sign Language. In fact he recently provided his skills in ASL at the marriage of my son, James. It was exciting to see this done so beautifully and with so much meaning. Many of the "hearing" experienced Liturgy in an entirely new way.

We are getting ready for the opening of school and with that the offering of classes in religious education, sacramental preparation and also RCIA. As with all you, things are busy here in the office and more importantly, in the parishes.

I look forward to hearing from you and getting the news out across the region. Blessings for a successful year in your ministries.