

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

As many of you know, the Mid-West ICDA will celebrate its 50th anniversary where it started fifty years ago...in CHICAGO! The weekend of APRIL 22-23 will be a wonderful time to celebrate. The hotel is excellent. (Very good rate to stay overnight!) The program for the weekend is fun, exciting, and well-planned. One workshop will lead by Rev. Joseph Bruce, SJ of Rhode Island. Father Bruce is deaf and he will talk about our Catholic History. INFO & registration: ICDA-US.ORG, select 2016 Chicago MWR Conference tab.

INFO: midwesticdaus2016@yahoo.com

ALSO, to help pay our expenses, we will have a delicious pancake breakfast on Sunday, 2/14 from 8 :am. - 1: pm. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, egg, beverages. At SFB: \$5.00/Adult and \$2/Under 12 yrs old. Proceeds to 2016 MWR.

CHILDREN OF PEACE SCHOOL/HOLY TRINITY is the ONLY CATHOLIC SCHOOL for deaf students in Illinois! Sat, March 19th will be its fundraiser at Hawthorne Race Track. Noon-6pm. INFO: 312-243-8186.

*ST. FRANCIS DE SALES (1567-1622) is the patron saint of deaf people. St. Francis was the bishop of Geneva, Switzerland. There were many people living in Switzerland who grew up Catholic, then joined other religions. St. Francis brought many of them back to the Catholic faith. He was a very spiritual person. Two of his books on the spiritual life have never been out of print! INTRODUCTION TO A DEVOUT LIFE, and TREATISE ON THE LOVE OF GOD.

Fr. Michael Depcik belongs to the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. The reason many people consider St. Francis the patron saint of deaf people is that he met a deaf man named Martin, and St. Francis taught him the Faith. In our chapel is a beautiful painting done by PATRICIA SLISZ showing St. Francis with Martin.

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS (1225-1274). St. Thomas Aquinas is one of the greatest thinkers in history! He taught and wrote many ideas about philosophy and Theology (study of God). Even people who have no religious faith consider him a genius! He was also an incredibly spiritual person. He had a very deep belief in the Eucharist (Holy Communion) as truly the Body and Blood of Jesus.

NEW LOCATION: RTA office no longer at 69 W. Washington they moved the office to **City Hall, 121 N. La Salle St, Room 100**. The Family & Support Services will take new applications for the RTA reduced fare and free ride cards. They also can do RENEWALS and REPLACEMENT cards as well. They have camera to take ID picture for the card. INFO: 312-913-3110 or www.rtachicago.com

THINK SUMMMER! Mayor's Office for Persons with Disabilities "ACCESS CHICAGO" will be JULY 13, 2016 at Navy Pier.

ALDA (Association of Late Deafened Adults) announces 2016 Conference: Sept 14-18, Milwaukee, WI. INFO: <http://www.alda.org/aldas-2015-convention/>

DEAF COFFEE SOCIALS this week: NEW LOCATION – Wed, Jan 27, 7 pm at Blaze Pizza, 953 W. Belmont, Chicago.

THURSDAY, 1/28, IDHHC (Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission) will have its Board meeting open to the public. This will be held at the Swoboda Center, 7050 W. Belmont, Chgo.

IMPORTANT! The State of Illinois is no longer sending notices to renew your sticker. Check your license plate to see when your sticker expires. Go to www.ilsos.gov/greenmail to sign up for reminders and to buy a new sticker.