

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

1) **BIG HELP! AGE OPTIONS/MAKE MEDICARE WORK** has excellent, informational videos in ASL! They explain about Medicare, applying for benefits, etc. www.ageoptions.org/services-and-programs_MMW

2) **RELAX.** Several people have come to me upset that I will be retiring next year (6/30/17). First, my retirement does NOT mean I am leaving Chicago or leaving the deaf community. I plan to stay in Chicago (my family is here) and continue to serve wherever I can. Hopefully, I will have **MORE** time to visit the sick, and **LESS** time spent at meetings!

Second, it **IS** important that a younger priest begin to work with the deaf community. He will be able to attract younger deaf people.

Third, we have a wonderful staff in **MRS SWATEK**, our Religious Education Coordinator, and **MS CURRY**, Office Manager of the Catholic Office of the Deaf. So stop worrying. Remember what Jesus told His Apostles: “Do NOT be afraid!”

3) **HOSPITALS, SIGN-LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS, and VRI:** The ADA Law states that a deaf person (or deaf parents of a child patient) has the right to effective communication in a hospital. More and more hospitals are using VRI (Video Relay Interpreters) instead of sign-language interpreters in person.

- a) Sometimes VRI can help. If a deaf person comes into an ER (Emergency Room), it will take time to get an interpreter. Having a VRI ready in short time can help the doctors figure out what is wrong.
- b) Sometimes, a sign-language interpreter is not available (example, 11:45pm!), a VRI will make communication easier.
- c) If a deaf person prefers a **SIGN-LANGUAGE INTERPRETER IN PERSON**, that is the **RIGHT** of the deaf patient! However, you must let the hospital know as soon as possible that you want an interpreter present with you.
- d) The hospital does **NOT** have the right to ask a family member (especially a hearing child!) to act as an interpreter.

4) Are **YOU** registered to vote? **NOVEMBER 2016** will be a very important election. We will vote for a new President and a U.S. Senator in Illinois. Some people running for political offices want to weaken or get rid of the ADA! It is very important that everyone, especially in the deaf community, register to vote.

5) **SAT, MAY 14**, benefit for **PATTI PHADKE** (cancer), Sat, 3-6pm, 6s559 Mill Creek Lane, Naperville.

6) **MAY** is the month of **MARY**. Need a Rosary? Fr. Joe has plenty of them, free.

7) **DEAF/HARD OF HEARING?** Must go to **COURT** in **COOK COUNTY**? Need an interpreter? You can contact ocj.deafhardofhearingaccess@cookcountyil.gov, 312-603-9187vp, 312-502-0996text, 312-603-1914tty, 312-603-1929fax.

8) **DEAF SOCIALS** this week: **DUPPIES**, Fri, May 13, at **BEAUTY BAR**, 1444 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago. Sat, May 14, 7 pm at Starbucks, 1220 N. Wells (NEW location), Chicago.

9) **EAT HEALTHY!** Farmers' markets open **THIS WEEK!**

Find a Farmer's Market near you:

<http://www.agr.state.il.us/agrihappenings/display2.php> or

http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/farmersmarkets0.html