



# Vision

The National Catholic Office for the Deaf

## Fall 2011

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Join NCOD

Volume 30/Number 5

## Seminarian: ASL brings faith to life for deaf Catholics

By Marty Denzer  
*Catholic Key Reporter*

KANSAS CITY — Many of us use our hands as much as our voice when we talk, for emphasis or to express emotion. But what if we couldn't hear, and possibly couldn't speak as a result? How would we communicate and how would others communicate with us? In the U.S., since the early years of the 19th century, a gestural language known as American Sign Language has been taught to the deaf, to enable them to interact with both deaf and hearing persons.

We've all seen interpreters, men and women specially trained in American Sign Language, signing at conventions, speeches and other

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A Pastoral Service for Persons who are Deaf or  
Hard of Hearing



Seminarian Joshua Barlett, flanked by his mom, Maryann Barlett (left) and his ASL tutor, Robin Sizemore, hopes to minister to deaf Catholics through American Sign Language in the future. (Photo courtesy Kathie Conwell)

# Greetings members and friends,

Fall is here and **Pastoral Week** is just around the corner. See pages 14 & 15 for conference information and registration form. And don't forget to become a **booster** and place an **ad** in our program book. The needed forms are on page 16 along with information concerning the **Pastoral Worker of the Year** Nomination process on page 17.

We have a new deaf Priest! Read about **Fr. Christopher Klusman** on page 10. Can you guess what his favorite movie is? And don't forget to learn more about **Joshua Barlett**, a new seminarian deeply interested in serving the deaf.

Did you know that one of our own has been recognized as an influential woman in the church? Be sure to congratulate **Minette Sternke** the next time you see her. Her story is on page 3.

If you missed the **ICDA** Conference in Chicago this July be sure to check out the news and pictures on page 12.

Your Board of Directors has also seen some changes this year. Be sure to check out **"Meet your new Board"** on page 8.

And be sure to use the **membership** form on page 19 if you haven't yet renewed.

Happy Reading,

NCOD Board of Directors

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# Women in the Church

Each spring, **Church Women United-USA** calls on member churches to recognize and affirm our young sisters in Christ who are working in many different vineyards of church, school, community, or business. CWU of Champaign-Urbana invites each congregation to honor women between the ages of 21 through 45, who live up to its motto: "**Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, and United to Serve.**"

Upon the recommendation of parish staff and Women of St. Patrick board members, **Minette Sternke** and Rachael McMillan were honored at the May Friendship Day celebration on Friday, May 6, at First United Methodist Church in Champaign. Regrettably, Minette was unable to participate because she was hosting the presenter for the Deaf Ministry Workshop at St. Patrick's.

If you have attended noon Mass on first or third Sundays of the month, you may have seen **Minette Sternke** facing the congregation as she interprets the Mass for deaf or hard-of-hearing parishioners. The Deaf Ministry Workshop on May 7 that she organized was just one part of her volunteer ministry to the deaf and hard-of-hearing members of our parish and in the local community. She is also involved in Cursillo and Koinonia weekends, often serving on the leadership teams. She is a Eucharistic minister at weekend liturgies and also brings Holy Communion to a

deaf and blind couple at their home. Minette is a bank examiner for the FDIC, the U.S. corporation that insures deposits in member banks.

In all, twelve young women from eleven congregations were honored on CWU's May Friendship Day. Evangelist Eloris Nash of New Hope Church of God in Christ moderated this diverse group of young women in their discussion of experiences in their churches and in the local community.

Church Women United holds three celebrations each year. It is a racially, culturally, and theologically inclusive international Christian women's movement that celebrates unity in diversity and works for a world of peace and justice.



# Canadians Welcome Kate Slosar

## Ontario Ministry with the Deaf Retreat

September 9, 10, 11, 2011

Many readers will remember Sister Alice Mailman. She coordinated Deaf Ministry in the province of Ontario until leaving to assume residence and ministry in the Maritime provinces, specifically Nova Scotia. In order to provide services to the Deaf of the province in the absence of a full-time coordinator, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario began a program of retreats for the Deaf, one in the Spring in the east of the province (Ottawa) and one in the Fall in the west of the province (most recently, Mississauga).



In our long history of Fall retreats (three years, that is!) we have been fortunate to share our spirit and our hospitality with Deacon Pat Graybill, Fr. Mike Depcik and now, Kate Slosar. Our Deaf retreatants have, in turn, been blessed by the presence and the spirituality of these fine Deaf leaders. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **FALL RETREAT FOR CATHOLIC DEAF** was a wonderful success! The theme for the weekend was 'Seasons of the Soul'. The facilitator for the weekend was NCOD board member, and Co-Director of Deaf Ministries for the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey, Kate Slosar.

Friday evening, September 9, 45 individuals came together at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, ready to grow spiritually and share

fellowship with their community. Joining our weekend family were Fr. Peter Monty, much loved priest with the Deaf, and Deacon Kevin Brockerville, also treasured by all. Kate welcomed everyone to the retreat and put them at ease with her warm and friendly manner. Every year, the numbers joining our Fall retreat have increased to the 45 retreatants we were blessed to share this weekend with.

Kate prepared presentations, using Power Point technology, to engage all participants in examining various aspects of their long-held religious concepts. Kate led the group to recognize Jesus as a peer, as a fellow human. We will always remember thinking of what 'Jesus' would order on his hamburger.

Kate, as a great presenter, invited the group to participate and be actively involved. One of the most memorable examples would be the joining of tiny vessels of water (many single individuals) into one large body of water. This was an awesome moment, capturing the concept of many small units joining together to become one whole, just as we are many parts but one body. Her well-prepared presentations, fun activities, and deep faith inspired everyone on the weekend.

We Canadians are proud and grateful to share your American resources (Kate) and look forward to stealing other prospects in the future. One of our great joys was seeing Kate wear her Canadian baseball cap as we said our farewells at retreat's end. Kate's gift to us was the offer that we all become one as we move forward in faith.

BRAVO Kate!



# A Visit to the Deaf Catholic Attic

This past Spring I drove to Holy Cross college in Worcester for a special tour of our Deaf Catholic history. I met Fr Joe Bruce and he brought me to the library, where we were allowed behind the desk to see the Deaf Catholic Archives. I felt the same as when I used to go into the attic at my grandparents house. In their attic they kept all kinds of things- pictures, toys, letters and things- which were reminders of family members and events from our past. The archive also has lots of different things from throughout our history of deaf Catholics in the United States. So, it is like our own attic, except that it is organized.

The Deaf Catholic Archives was started by Fr Joe Bruce back in 1974. It was clear by then that his own growing collection of newspapers, pictures, yearbooks, etc. needed to be housed somewhere that it could grow, be organized, and be accessible to our community for years to come. At that time the archive section of the library was being set up. Fr Joe convinced them to allow some space for Deaf Catholic Archives.

When we entered the archives, there was a long gray wall with panels about six feet wide and a crank in the center of each panel. The librarian checked the signs on the panels and then grabbed one crank and started turning. As he turned, half the wall slid to the left, until there was enough room for us to walk down between the shelves. I was amazed to see perhaps thirty feet of shelves, from the floor to the ceiling, with all kinds of materials going back well over a hundred years of our history. I think we spent about an hour

there with me pulling boxes off the shelves and looking through them, and Fr Joe pulling out things to show me. It was really amazing and inspiring!

The Archive is organized into eleven categories, from Deaf Catholic schools, to periodicals, to ICDA, to individual Deaf Catholics and pastoral ministers. Some periodicals you may recognize include Vision and ICDA News. Some you may not includes The Catholic Deaf Mute which was a sort of newspaper founded in 1900 by James Donnelly, a Deaf Catholic. This periodical was published until the 1960s, though it's name was changed in the 1940s to Epheta. This is one of those areas in which the archive is incomplete. It has the issues from 1922 and 1923, but only a few of those from 1940 to 1966.

The Archive is an amazing resource for all of us, and for the students in the Deaf Studies program at Holy Cross college. Each year students focus on some aspect of the life of Deaf people. This year we have asked if a student would spend some time going through the materials in the Deaf Archive. We are planning on having a presentation about the Archive at Pastoral Week in Boston in January. I don't know about you, but I am eager to find out more about what is in the Archive, and how that can inform the ministry with the Deaf that we all engage in. I look forward to finding out what is in the Archive, what may be missing, and how we can be sure to keep it growing for future generations of Deaf Catholics.

Submitted by Fr. Thom Duston

*Continued from page 1—Seminarian*

“There is a huge need for ASL,” said seminarian Joshua Barlett, 22, who graduated in May from Conception Seminary College with a degree in Philosophy. He will begin his theology coursework at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, later this month, and keep practicing and learning ASL for use in future ministries. “ASL helps the deaf ‘talk’ to other deaf people,” he said, “and to hearing people who know how to sign. Knowing ASL would reach out to them; if a deaf person needed a one-on-one talk with a priest or especially during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

Joshua, a hearing person, began learning American Sign Language as a child. Joshua, his brothers and sister were all homeschooled through grade 12. “I think I was around 9 years old,” he recalled. “It was time for us all to learn a foreign language. Mom did some research and found that, in this country, Spanish is the second most commonly spoken language and American Sign Language is third. (Some sources say it is the fourth most common.) We started with Spanish, but we wanted something different. So Mom went to the library and found some things out about ASL, and we decided signing was the language we wanted to learn.”

“Mom,” Maryann Barlett, started teaching herself sign language with what was available at the neighborhood library and her children learned along with her. When the library’s resources were exhausted, Joshua said, Maryann began taking courses in ASL at Maple Woods Community College, and brought home what she learned to teach her children.

Maryann Barlett eventually went to work for Catholic Charities as the Coordinator for Deaf Services.

Joshua first thought about being a priest when he was about eight and serving Mass for the first time. “When I walked back down the aisle with the other server and Father, an elderly lady

stopped me. ‘Oh, you look just like Father, are you going to be a priest?’ Well, I loved attention and that started me thinking maybe I would like to be a priest. School and other things took over and I pushed it away almost until the end of high school. Then it came back. I decided to attend Conception and check it out. After I’d only been there a short time, I realized I loved it. This is what God is calling me to do. I’m looking forward to Josephinum, and it’s only 10 minutes away from the Ohio School for the Deaf, so I can keep up with ASL.”

***‘Oh, you look just like Father, are you going to be a priest?’***

Joshua and his siblings continued to learn ASL as they grew older. Sign language is not just hand signals, he said, it’s a language, with its own grammar structure. It requires constant memorization and, even more, a change in thought processes. It’s a language of concepts, not words, he said, and as such has its own difficulties.

American Sign Language is a complex language that employs signs using the hands, with movements of the fingers, arms and head, accompanied by facial grammar (expressions) and posture. “Sometimes it’s hard to get it through my mind that you can’t just translate English into hand signals,” Joshua said. “Using your hands, face and body, you have to describe a concept so it can be visualized. You can’t just sign bear, you have to sign that it’s a big, brown, hairy animal. You have to connect the motion with the idea: the sign for banana is the motion of peeling your index finger.”

This summer, Joshua worked at Bishop Sullivan Center, and received American Sign Language tutoring from Robin Sizemore. He was able to do this because of a grant for seminarians from the Catherin V. Merrill Foundation which is to be used to give them a chance to work and further their education, especially in Spanish, while involving them in social services. Seminarians are able to work at Bishop Sullivan Center and Seton Center under the terms of the grant.

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*Continued from page 6—Seminarian*

Joshua had already done some studying Spanish, and approached Father Richard Rocha, Kansas City-St. Joseph vocations director, requesting to learn more sign language. Father Rocha and Maryann Barlett joined forces to find a tutor, and Bishop Sullivan Center director Tom Turner spoke with attorneys for the Merrill Foundation to get an agreement that ASL would fit the terms of the grant. When the agreement came through, Joshua was ready to begin his summer of working with the poor and learning more ASL.

He spent four hours each workday with Sizemore. One of the first things she did was present Joshua with a pair of ear plugs and told him to wear them when they went outside the Bishop Sullivan Center. The ear plugs enabled him to get a sense of what it is like to not be able to hear. He had to communicate with other people as though he was deaf.

ASL is the first language of many of the deaf in North America, and differs dramatically from British Sign Language, Spanish Sign Language and most other sign languages.

Maryann Barlett said American Sign Language is regionally and culturally based. Signing in Kansas City, Mo., is very much like signing in Johnson County, Kansas, while signing in St. Louis has many differences (e.g. much as a hearing person in Kansas City might call a soft drink a “Coke,” a St. Louis native would call it a soda). The sign for trash in Kansas City, she said, is the same as the sign for cabbage in Minnesota. American signers cannot automatically understand Spanish, German or even British sign language.

In the past 184 years, American Sign Language has expanded to include signs for new customs, new technologies and new phenomena, including a sign for the Internet. Maryann said before 9-11, there was no sign for terrorism. The deaf community in New York devised a sign and within a few months, through conversations and over the Internet, deaf people all over the country were using it. To visualize the sign, think of two airplanes crashing into two tall buildings.

Writing in the Catholic Sentinel, of Portland, Ore., in 2007, Archbishop John Vlazney noted that “Presently there are actually seven deaf priests who minister in the United States. Reportedly there are also four deaf seminarians studying to be priests...About half the dioceses in the United States offer deaf-ministry programs. Most ... have Masses interpreted into American Sign Language. The biggest change here and elsewhere is that more deaf lay people are attending church and becoming involved in parish life.

Even with updated sign language and interpreters, Joshua said many in the deaf community don’t feel accepted by hearing persons and the hearing culture — don’t feel they are part of the larger community. Especially when it comes to their faith, he said. “Finding out that a seminarian has been learning ASL excited them. Deaf Catholics don’t often get opportunities to learn about their faith. It’s crucial to reach out to them to help them grow in faith and community acceptance.”

Arvilla Rank, Executive Director of the National Catholic Office for the Deaf (NCOD), reported, again in 2007, that only about 4 percent of deaf Catholic adults nationwide attend Mass. For them “the experience of attending a spoken Mass falls flat. For others a signed Mass doesn’t adequately convey inflections and nuances of a speaking priest’s homily.”

Father Rocha said that as far as he knows, only Father Bernard Branson, pastor of St. Ann Parish in Independence, knows how to communicate in American Sign Language.

Joshua and other young people have reached out to the deaf community in their parishes, serving as interpreters and animators. In high school, Joshua participated in a hand choir at St. James of Liberty, which signed the words of the music the hearing congregation was singing during Mass.

## Deaf Mass Opens Its Heart

by Frania Franch

Noble Powers sat on a chair in the Deaf Mass at Transfiguration Catholic Church's Blessed Sacrament Chapel and held on to my signing hands as Father Rich blessed the Eucharistic bread and wine. Through my interpretive hands, Noble could feel the presence of Christ. He is an elderly Deaf-Blind visitor from Chattanooga, TN. After the Deaf Mass, Noble felt inspired and recalled that he used to live in Chicago working for the Chicago based newspapers and attended the Deaf congregation Masses. He was relocated to other cities across the nation before he retired and settled down in Chattanooga.

There were two Deaf-Blind visitors and three Deaf Support Service Providers from Chattanooga and Knoxville at our Deaf Mass as well. They expressed that their first experience attending a Deaf Mass was so appealing. A Support Service Provider (SSP) can be any trained volunteer or professional to act as a link between the Deaf-Blind and their environment.

Typically the SSP works with a single Deaf-Blind individual, and act as a guide and communication facilitator. The SSP also relays visual and environmental information that can't be heard or seen by the Deaf-Blind. This is done in the Deaf-Blind person's preferred language and communication. The Deaf and hearing Catholic parishioners were in awe as they watched the SSPs use the tactile signing to bring the Mass to our Deaf-Blind visitors. Wendy Sullivan, a Transfiguration parishioner who attended SSP training while studying Sign Language Interpreting at Georgia Perimeter College, was an SSP at the Deaf Mass. I am also a fluent Deaf SSP working with the Deaf-Blind community and Georgia Association for the Deaf-Blind for 12 years.

You can learn more about interpreting and guiding the Deaf-Blind by seeking their suggestions, observing their reactions in various situations and consulting books on these subjects. There are the state organizations for the Deaf-Blind to offer the SSP training workshops. Also, see the website for American Association for the Deaf-Blind ([AADB.org](http://AADB.org))

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### *Meet Your New Board*

There have been several changes to your Board of Directors this year. As is required, we held elections for representatives in several regions. **Msgr. Glenn Nelson** will now serve the **Great Lakes** and **Arthine Vicks-Powers** will continue with the **South** region having previously filled the vacancy when we lost **Monique Mouton**.

Our surprise change came with the relocation of **Deb Garner** to Ohio. Deb had to step down from the board as she can no longer represent the Southeast Atlantic region from Ohio! Congratulations to her husband Mike on his new position with Coca Cola and their new life in the north.

The elections in the **Southeast Atlantic** region have produced a great representative in **Frania Franch** from GA. Be sure to congratulate

Frania when you see her at Pastoral Week.

As VP of the board, **Eileen Colarusso** will now be the **President** filling Deb's tenure. **Msgr. Nelson** was elected to fill Eileen's **VP** position and Arthine will continue as Secretary.

The other big board news is the changing of the guard at ICDA-USA. **Jean Cox**, now the president of **ICDA-USA** has passed the baton to **Terri Matenaer** to represent ICDA on the NCOD Board of Directors. Many thanks to Jean for her many years of service and congratulations to Terri. Welcome aboard Terri.

And a final note. Be sure to congratulate **Eileen Colarusso** on her graduation from the **Pastoral Ministry** program at the **University of St. Thomas**.

We are blessed with so many talented people within this organization.. Congratulations to ALL!!



# As priest, Christopher Klusman hopes to open doors for Deaf

Written by Tracy Rusch  
*Catholic Herald Staff*

People may be surprised to learn that Darth Vader, chief antagonist in the original trilogy, is the favorite “Star Wars” character of one of the archdiocese’s soon-to-be ordained priests. “People are like, “That doesn’t seem like something you would like,” laughed Christopher Klusman, 34, describing the collection of Darth Vader. But there’s a reason, “His story is really interesting because he’s a good guy and people introduced him (to) and fed him wrong ideas that (make him think) he’s doing a good thing, but then at the very end of the series you see he comes back to the good side, so it’s a beautiful human struggle that people go through on earth,” the Milwaukee native said in an interview with your Catholic Herald. “...I see him as a very genuine human person, very real in the way that he tried to do the best, but things lead him in all different directions.”

Klusman understands struggles. He’s encountered plenty growing up Deaf – and hopes to use his experiences to bridge the gap between the Deaf and hearing of the Catholic Church. “I hope that I can open the doors more in a way for Deaf people to come to love God and understand their faith better,” he said. “It’s been a blessing and a thorn to me,” Klusman said of his Deafness with a capital “D,” which he explained denotes someone like himself, who views Deafness as a vital part of his identity by sharing the primary American Sign Language, experiences, values, social norms, traditions and views that it is a difference, not a disability.

When he was a little more than a year old, Klusman’s parents, Elaine and Elmer, realized their fourth child wasn’t responding to their voices. Elaine said they didn’t let it affect the way they raised him. They took him to concerts. When he wanted a boom box, they bought him one. “We never made him feel like he was any different than any other child, we just always treated him like a hearing person,” Klusman attended Neeskara Elementary and Sholes Middle School, working hard so he could get accepted at St. Thomas More High School where he graduated with honors and was accepted into UW-Madison.

Klusman was working for the Department of Public Instruction in Madison as an education specialist in American Sign Language and other ways Deaf people



*Christopher Klusman is pictured in his room at Saint Francis Seminary, St. Francis with a full size cardboard cutout of Darth Vader, part of his Star Wars collection, Monday, April 25. A Star Wars fan, Klusman will be ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on Saturday, May 21 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. (Catholic Herald photo by Ernie Mastroianni)*

communicate, traveling throughout Wisconsin to do his work. He visited schools where he did evaluations, assessments, intervention and provided support for teachers of Deaf and hard of hearing students, interpreters, students, parents and families. He loved his job, especially being a Deaf role model to the children.

“My mentor would always tell the children and the parents that Deaf people can do anything but hear, so I wanted to inspire them – if they want to be a doctor, go for it. A lawyer, a reporter, a journalist, anything, because many Deaf people, they don’t know if they can accomplish that,” Klusman said, admitting that he’s still surprised of the things he’s accomplished in his life. But one thing he never did was follow that same advice. “I told children and other people that if you put your heart into it, you can be anybody you want to be, but for some weird reason, I saw that I could become anybody, any job except being a priest,” he said.

That was until his UW-Madison college friends introduced him to Msgr. Glenn Nelson, the director of Deaf ministry in the Diocese of Rockford, Ill. They took road trips to Illinois where they would attend Bible studies that left him feeling “on fire,” and made for great conversation on the ride back and late into the night. Klusman remembers not wanting to leave. “I came up to him and I said, ‘Thank you for the great Bible study session, I loved it,’ and that’s when he popped the question,” said Klusman, who was about 27 or 28 at the time, “He said, ‘Christopher, have you ever thought about the priesthood?’ Wow, that put me on the spot. I felt like a deer stepping on the highway with the lights.” Klusman shared his concerns – that he didn’t know if it would be possible – but the priest told him that nothing’s impossible with God. “He was kind enough to offer his time to

*Continued on page 11—Klusman*

*Continued from page 10—Klusman*

meet with me once a month to discern...” Klusman said of what led to him applying for the seminary. In August of 2005, he resigned from his “dream” job. “I struggled with

leaving my job, but I think, in a way, my job was a blessing, because even though I was very busy, I kind of was like if only I could have a half-an-hour to read a Bible,” Klusman said. The idea that he could do that all as a priest was inviting.

Heather Pudas, 37, a teacher of the Deaf and hard of hearing who has known Klusman since about 2003 when they met at a workshop, said she was surprised when he told her he was applying to the seminary because he hadn’t ever talked about it with her. “However, after we talked about it a little bit, I could really see how that fit him and how it would be a really good match for him. I could understand also how important it was to him and in the church, because there are so few people who are able to minister to the Deaf community and so to have a pastor or a priest who is able to connect on that level and be able to use their native language fluently is just a really huge asset and so important. Maybe he won’t be able to solve everything, but he’ll be able to listen and comfort – I know that he’ll definitely give comfort to anybody who comes to him,” she said of Klusman, who she calls her “Deaf-hearing friend, because even though he is Deaf, he can very easily go between the Deaf and the hearing world.”

Sue Gudenkauf, Klusman’s interpreter at UW-Madison, said she wasn’t surprised when he announced his decision. “I knew he was growing in his faith and he was really discerning what God was calling him to do next and so I did know he was thinking about it and encouraged him to talk to other priests and seminarians,” she said sharing in his excitement. Gudenkauf, who attends St. Dennis Church in Madison, said that Klusman’s pastoral and servant mentality will make a mark on the often underserved Deaf community. “There are priests that sign that are hearing, but there’s a very small number of priests that are Deaf or who have a hearing loss that use American Sign Language as their primary mode of communication, as

their first language, and as priests throughout the world,” Gudenkauf said.

As he looks forward to his ordination, Klusman said he’s most excited to make his parents and family, who have never failed to show him love and support, proud. “God blessed me with so many things that I want to be able to give back the wonderful blessings that I’ve received to them and that’s what I’m looking forward to doing,” he said.



**Saturday, May 21, 2011**

*With praise and gratitude to God, Saint Francis de Sales Seminary joyfully celebrated the Ordination of the Priesthood of five seminarians from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Fr. Kevin Barnekow, Fr. Javier Guativa Fr. Christopher Klusman, Fr. Hugo Londono Fr. Kevin McManaman*

A powerful DVD is available on Fr. Christopher Klusman’s journey to priesthood from Dolan Productions LLC. “**Hearing God**” a special half-hour program that was broadcast in Milwaukee in 2011 and later picked up for worldwide broadcast on EWTN. It is the remarkable story of one of the few deaf men in America to be ordained a priest, Fr. Christopher Klusman. This program has been submitted to several national groups for award consideration. Contact DOLAN PRODUCTIONS LLC at 474 Cedar Valley Court, Delafield, WI 53018. e-mail: [dolanprod@yahoo.com](mailto:dolanprod@yahoo.com) or phone: 262-271-4310

## Highlights of the 2011 ICDA-US Conference

By Jean Cox

Greetings from ICDA-US Representative, Jean Cox

I have some news for you. First, I want to share the brief story and pictures of the ICDA-US Conference with you. The conference was held in Chicago this past July 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. The theme was “Connected in Christ!”. We were honored to have Fr. Christopher Klusman, the recently ordained priest to say the closing Mass for the Conference guests. Many thanks went to Moderator Fr Joe Mulcrone and Chairperson Richard Kush and his Committee for all their work to make this conference possible.

Second, I want to thank God for giving me the picture of what’s the ICDA-US Representative like and had have been the rep on NCOD Board for six years. Now the time has come for the new ICDA-US Rep and I have given the ICDA-US Rep baton to Terri Matanaer. Let’s welcome Terri to the Board.

-Jean



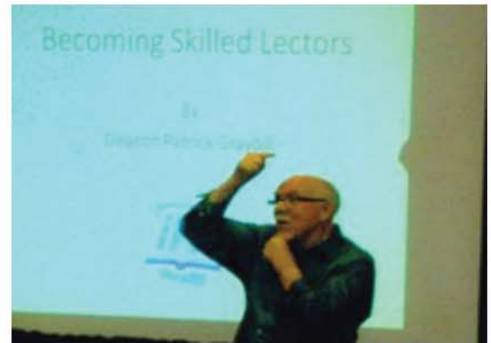
Bro. Joseph Thermadom, OP Miss. & Paul Blicharz



Twin Deaf sisters Deanna Kuhn & Dianna Scott at Kanan Dinner Cruise



Fr Mike Depcik at Santuario Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Deacon Patrick Graybill as workshop presenter



Mass At Holy Family Church



Fr. Christopher Klusman at Closing Mass



Recent results of new officers term:  
Jean Cox - President, Kate Slosar – Vice President, James Kelly, Jr – Treasurer, T.K. Hill – Secretary and Fr. Mike Depcik – Chaplain

# The Third Edition of the Roman Missal

The Roman Missal is the book that contains the prayers, and instructions for the celebration of Mass in the Roman Catholic Church. Published first in Latin, the text is then translated and once approved is published in modern languages for use in local churches throughout the world. This third edition will provide an opportunity to the entire church to deepen its understanding of the Sacred Liturgy, and to appreciate its meaning and importance in our lives. The *Roman Missal* will be implemented in the United States of America on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011. A few members of our Catholic Deaf Community were fortunate to attend a one day workshop hosted by Fr. Paul Zirimenya and the Deaf Community of St. Benedict Parish in San Francisco, in which we discussed the changes that will take place.

*Reprinted with permission  
Diocese of Orange Catholic Deaf Community  
Newsletter*



*For more information on the changes to the Roman Missal visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)*

## A Deaf Pastoral Worker's View

Hi from Camden, New Jersey! I do know we all are busy trying to help our communities into being prepared or being ready for the new Roman Missal changes that will occur on November 27, 2011. I too have been trying to get our deaf community prepared as well. We have been meeting once a month studying the changes and we have older deaf, younger deaf participants and discussing their views. We try our best to agree on the signs that we will use. Jesus did say "When there are two or three persons gathered in my name, I am there". Without a community we would not have a Mass.

It is lot of pressure in trying to make sense and fit into our language and our cultural norms. There were times when I needed to stop and think and just pray from the heart instead of worrying about what signs we use or make it meaningful.

I was reminded of an experience in

Pittsburgh, PA airport where I was waiting to board the next plane back to Detroit. I was staring out the window watching the baggage clerks taking care of our luggage to the black belt ramp up onto the plane's cargo bay. While I was watching, I was waiting for the clerk to "drop" a bag and then I would go "AHA he did drop the bag, big mistake!". Well. I realized, I shouldn't have that attitude and thank God the clerk did not drop a bag at all. The clerk had practice of doing his job.

It is the similar idea as what we are doing with the Roman Missal changes. We are trying to make it perfect, in time we will understand it and allow the Mass prayers go to our hearts, our minds, our bodies and our souls. It takes practice and allow ourselves be open to the "new" experience of the Mass that we have been using for many, many years. May God continue to help and bless us in our ministry as we go on this journey together.

Peace, Kate Slosar

# Pastoral Week 2012

*Boston, Massachusetts*

*January 13-17, 2012*

*Hilton Boston Back Bay*

## Conference Location

We had freezing rain in San Antonio. There was snow on the ground in Atlanta. This year we're trying something new. We're going NORTH! Join us in **Boston, Mass** for the 2012 NCOD Pastoral Week Conference.

### Presenters:

**Maryann Barth**--Opening presentation  
**Fr. Michael Medas**--Young Catholic Leaders  
**Fr. Christopher Klusman**--The Roman Missal--Changes to the Lenten Prayers and the Triduum  
**FBI**--a representative of the FBI will school us on internet safety and internet scams to watch out for

### We are setting up workshops on:

'**Family Ministry**' - Lauri Pryzbys  
'**What to know about Archiving**' -- what should I keep and how to preserve it  
and '**Icons in Art**'-- How do they inspire us



The [Hilton Boston Back Bay](#) hotel in downtown Boston is ideally located in the heart of the city's most picturesque neighborhood just steps away from everything Boston has to offer. You will find the most popular things to do in Boston including cultural and tourist attractions as well as prime business centers and the best shopping, dining and entertainment options right outside our Boston hotel's door....

Again this year we are happy to offer our conference room rate three days prior to and three days after the conference. You must include these additional days at the time of your conference reservation to receive this reduced rate. We hope you will spend a few extra days in Boston and enjoy your time. Remember to tell them you are with NCOD when you make your reservation.

## Conference Schedule

(Subject to Change)

### Friday, Jan. 13

Registration begins at **3pm**  
**4-5pm** Reconciliation  
**5pm** Mass with *Bishop Rhoades*  
**8:30-10pm** Welcome Reception

### Saturday, Jan. 14

**8:00** Prayer  
**9:00** Welcome  
**9:00-11:30** Opening Presentation  
*Maryann Barth*  
**11:30-1:30pm** Group Lunch  
**1:30-2:30** Business Meeting  
**3:00**--Load Buses  
**4pm** Vigil Mass with  
*Cardinal O'Malley*

**5:30** Dinner with local committee  
**7:30** Return to Hotel  
**9:00** Cursillo-Ultreya Gathering

### Sunday, Jan. 15

**8:00am** Deaf Pastoral Workers Meeting  
**9:00-9:45am** Mass  
**9:45-10am** Break  
**10-12** Presentation  
*Fr. Mike Medas*  
**12-1:30** Lunch on own  
**1:30-3:30** Presentation  
*FBI on Technology*  
(New Website Intro)  
**4-5pm** Regional Meetings  
**6-7:30pm** Cocktails  
**7-10pm** Banquet & Awards Ceremony

### Monday, Jan. 16

**8-9** Special Interest Meeting,  
**8:00** Mass  
**9:00-10:30** Workshops  
1. Family Ministry  
2. Archiving  
3. Icons  
**11:00- 12:30** Repeat of Morning Workshops  
**12:45-** Group lunch  
**2:30-5:30** Presentation  
*Fr. Klusman*

### Tuesday, Jan. 17

**8:30am** Morning Prayer  
**9:00 am** Break  
**9:30am** Presentation  
*Confirmation*  
*Committee Report*  
**11:30 Closing Mass**  
Free Afternoon Tour Boston



Please print clearly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Deaf  Deaf-Blind  Hearing

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ First time at PW?

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese: *National Catholic Office for the Deaf*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ VP  TTY  Voice  Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(In case we need to reach you)*

REGISTRATION OPTIONS	Member	Non-Member	Cost
<b>Early Bird Registration (before 12/01/11 deadline):</b> Registration Fee (includes conference meal plan—Two lunches, and the Banquet)	\$380	\$450	
<b>Registration Fee (after 12/01/11 deadline):</b> Registration Fee (includes conference meal plan—Two lunches, and the Banquet)	\$450	\$520	
<b>Your generous donation in support of NCOD</b>			
NCOD Membership 2012 paid? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Membership # on card _____		
Mail to: NCOD Pastoral Week 7202 Buchanan Street Landover Hills, MD 20784		Total Paid US Funds Only	\$ _____

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** *(Please check all that apply)*  LARGE PRINT  TACTILE INTERPRETER  DIABETIC  
 VOICE INTERPRETER  ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE  VEGETARIAN  CELIACS  
 ASL INTERPRETER  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**Attention:** For Deaf-Blind accessibility, i.e. Interpreters, Special Support Services, Large Print copies, please contact the NCOD Office by 11/25/11 EMAIL: info@ncod.org;

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** Hilton Boston Back Bay 40 Dalton Street, Boston, MA 02115  
 Ph: 617-236-1100 Room Rate: \$129 (single/quad)  
*See the hotel website for transportation options*

**DEADLINE FOR CONFERENCE RATE:** 5:00pm local time at Hotel DECEMBER 21, 2011  
*Spend some extra time in Boston—Conference rate available 3 days prior to and 3 days after conference if requested at time of original booking*

# Pastoral Week 2012 Boosters

To become 'good stewards of God's varied grace' we are called to share our gifts of time, talent and treasure. Many of you have the opportunity to share your gift of time with your local community. You may also be sharing your gift of talent with us here at the National Catholic Office for the Deaf by volunteering on the local committee for Pastoral Week 2012 or assisting us at Pastoral Week with the many odd jobs that need to be done. Another way to be a 'good steward' is to become a Pastoral Week Booster and/or encourage others to become Boosters. The financial obligations of presenting an event such as Pastoral Week can be daunting. The success of Pastoral Week rests on the time, talent and treasure of all of us.

Please consider becoming a Pastoral Week 2012 Booster this year. Ask your friends, family and local business to support Pastoral Week through our Booster program. We have several levels available to match your treasure.

Diamond Booster	\$250	Name _____
Gold Booster	\$100	Company/Organization _____
Silver Booster	\$50	Mailing Address _____
Bronze Booster	\$25	City State Zip _____
Patron	\$ _____	Phone _____ V TTY VP FAX

*Send your check payable to:  
 NCOD PW Boosters  
 7202 Buchanan Street  
 Landover Hills, MD 27804*

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations received by November 15, 2011 will be noted in the 2012 Pastoral Week Program book*

## Pastoral Week 2012 Program Book Ads

The National Catholic Office for the Deaf is now accepting Ads for its program book for the 2012 Pastoral Week in Boston, MA, January 13-17, 2012. This is a great opportunity to advertise your parish or organization. Approximately 200 copies of the program book are printed and distributed to all conference attendees. You are encouraged to complete the information below and return the form with payment and a camera-ready proof of your ad. Ads may be submitted electronically as a pdf to [info@ncod.org](mailto:info@ncod.org), please add Pastoral Week Program Ad to the subject line. We look forward to receiving your ad and support. **Deadline: November 15, 2011**

Name _____	_____ Full Page	4.5w X 7.5 h	\$200
Company/Organization _____	_____ Half Page	4.5w X 3.75h	\$125
Mailing Address _____	_____ Qtr. Page	2.25w X 3/75h	\$70
City State Zip _____	_____ Eighth Page	2.25w X 1.88h	\$50
Phone _____ V TTY VP FAX	<input type="checkbox"/> I will be sending an electronic copy		
Email _____			

# 2012 Father David Walsh Pastoral Worker of the Year Award Call for Nominations

The Rev. David Walsh Pastoral Worker of the Year Award was established to honor individuals, organizations or companies that have contributed significant dedication, support and assistance to Deaf Catholics. It is NCOD's way of saying "thank you" not only for a job well done but for his/her leadership role and impact among Deaf Catholics.

**Please use the following guidelines for submitting your nomination.**

1. Consider individuals, organizations, churches or companies that have contributed in a special way to Deaf Catholics and their ministry.
2. Submitting names alone will not qualify; nominees submitted in previous years must be resubmitted—nominations are not retained year to year.
3. Provide the name, address, telephone numbers and email address of the person/organization making the nomination.
4. Provide the name of the individual, organization or company to be considered for recognition. Include address, contact numbers and current position. Nominees do not need to be NCOD members.
5. Describe the distinctive contribution or significant positive impact to the Deaf Catholic Community that this person or entity has provided.
6. List the length of time this person/organization has been involved in Deaf Ministry.
7. Explain why you believe these contributions make this person/organization worthy of recognition.
8. *And include a picture of the nominee.*

**Please mail entries before November 15, 2011 to:**  
**Rev. David Walsh Pastoral Worker of the Year Award**  
**National Catholic Office for the Deaf**  
**7202 Buchanan Street**  
**Landover Hills, MD 20784**

**Or Email to [info@ncod.org](mailto:info@ncod.org) please type "Fr. Walsh Award" in the subject line**

## *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Purchase your copies of the DVD and Manual in any of the following configurations:

Quantity

_____ DVD/Manual	X	\$60 =	_____		
_____ DVD/Manual on CD only	X	\$50 =	_____		
_____ DVD/Manual/Manual on CD	X	\$80 =	_____		
_____ Please add \$5/set for shipping & handling		=	_____	(shipping and handling)	
(number of sets)		TOTAL =	_____		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



*Make checks payable to:*  
**National Catholic Office for the Deaf**  
*US Funds Only*

Send orders with full payment to: NCOD 7202 Buchanan Street, Landover Hills, MD 20784

## Brother Boniface Gregory Garcia Bateman

June 7, 1952-June 2, 2011

Brother Boniface Gregory Garcia Bateman died at his home in Louisville on June 2, 2011. Those who knew him as Greg, Boni and Brother Boniface, knew he had deep faith and trust in God.

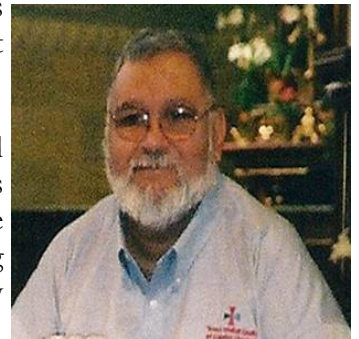
To some Greg's life may have seemed too short; but for those who knew him, his love and kindness will live on for many years.

He was born to Bonifacio Celaya Garcia and Gloria Bateman Garcia on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1952. Greg always felt the call to serve others. He joined the United States Air Force and served as an Airman First Class until he was honorably discharged in 1975. He answered God's calling by entering the Trinitarian Monastery in 1982 where he met his best and life-long friend Timothy "Timo" Owens.

Greg continued to serve by offering his time and talents by cofounding The Deaf Sports Youth Festival (MDO), the Deaf Community Center of Louisville. He also volunteered at the Catholic Deaf Cursillo, the Order of the Knights of St. Johns, Camp Mark Seven and numerous other

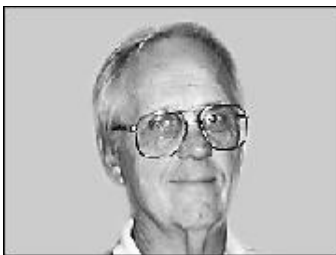
organizations his humbled heart kept anonymous.

Greg received numerous recognitions for his service, the most notable being named an Honorary Kentucky Colonel.



Many people were honored to have Greg in their life. Greg, "Boni", as he is known to his family, loved his grandparents James Robert and Herlinda Bateman and Gregoria and Panfila Garcia, his siblings, Vincent (Leti) Garcia, James (Cindy) Garcia, Rudy Garcia, Juan "Johnny" Garcia and David Garcia, and two sisters, Lindarosa (Robert) Contreras and Gloria (Manuel Hernandez) Garcia.

Greg's extended family consists of Ann and Tom Pudlowski, Donnie Owens, Mike and Linda Owens Aline and Don Shaw, Mary Sue Owens, Barbara Cassin, Anello and Norma Scannapeco. Greg was a special uncle to 20 nieces, and 18 nephews, and 29 great nieces and nephews. He was honorary Godfather to every child he met. He showed them he was still a kid at heart, and taught them the best time to have fun is today!



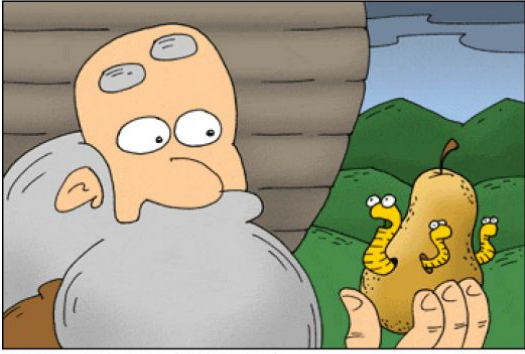
**Klusman, Elmer E. Jr.**  
Born To Eternal Life on Tuesday, September 13, 2011. Age 74 years. Beloved husband for 49 1/2 years of Elaine (nee Fons). Loving father of

Karen Klusman, David Sr. (Christina), Thomas (Carrie), and **Fr. Christopher Klusman**. Proud grandfather of Matthew, Katherine, Alexa, David Jr., Samantha, Andrew, Timothy, Jacob and "Grandpa Buddy" of Natalie. Dear brother of Judith "Luly" (the late Leonard) Singer. Cherished godfather of Suzanne Machajewski. Further survived by dear nieces, nephews, other family members and friends. Mass of Christian Burial was

held at ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH. Interment and military honors to follow in St. Adalbert Cemetery. Affectionately also known as "Fudd" and "Elmo", Elmer was a graduate of Milwaukee Boys Tech High School. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and retiree from Cutler-Hammer. Elmer was a competitive player of dartball and bowling, and was a member of the Senior 55 plus softball league. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that memorials be made to Autism Speaks, the American Cancer Society, or the Deaf Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.



# Just for Fun!



Thanks to Stephen Illich (See Genesis 6-8) 05-19-2003

**WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING CREATURES THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS**

Sudoku

3	9	1				7	2	
2		9						
	6		3			8		
4		8		3				9
1				7				6
6				4		5		2
		2			6		1	
					3			8
	4	6				2	3	7

## National Catholic Office for the Deaf

### Membership Form

- New Member     
  Renewal     
  Vision only

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

- Deaf/Hard of Hearing     
  Deaf-Blind     
  Hearing

Phone (W): \_\_\_\_\_ TTY Voice Both VP

Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ TTY Voice Both VP

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of Designated Voter: \_\_\_\_\_

(for Family and Executive Members only)

#### Annual Membership Fees

(USA Rate)

- Individual \$70  
 Family \$100  
 Student \$35  
 Pastoral \$70  
 Executive \$250 (Diocese, Agencies, & Organizations)  
 Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Tax Deductible)

#### Vision Subscription Only

(USA Rate)

##### One Year

- \$20 US  
 \$30 International

##### Two Year

- \$35 US  
 \$55 International

- please send paper copies of web issues

Mail Application to:

NCOD Membership

7202 Buchanan Street

Landover Hills, MD 20784



7202 Buchanan Street  
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info@ncod.org  
Www.ncod.org

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NCOD Mission Statement: "Spread God's message through the support of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Pastoral Ministry so that we may all be one in Christ"

*Printing of the National Catholic Office for the Deaf **Vision** magazine is made possible through partial funding provided by our sponsor.*

*Thank you for your support!*

## Making a difference.

At Baird we recognize that dedicated people can make all the difference. That's why we admire the pastoral workers whose commitment to the National Catholic Office for the Deaf changes lives.

We're proud to support them in their efforts to create better tomorrows for others.



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