

National Catholic Office for the Deaf Western Region Report 2010

Introduction

On May 20, 2010, I received a formal letter from the NCOD President about my selection as Western Region Representative for a term of three years. Two weeks later, I sent word to St. Benedict's Parish webmaster about creating a website for NCOD as a tool for collaboration. The website whose thread is www.ncodwr.org is up and running since July 2, 2010. It has: brief Mission Statement, History of the Western region, Succession of Representatives, Map of the Western Region, Directory and Resources.

Since my selection, I emailed priests, religious and pastoral workers in the Western region, some of whom I have already met or knew --- informing them about my selection as their new representative. The Western Region has 33 Arch/dioceses (30 Western rite and 3 Eastern rite) recognized by the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops. So far, I have received feedback from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, the Diocese of Sacramento, the Diocese of Phoenix and the Diocese of Fresno. Some Deaf Catholics in the Bay Area who reside within the boundaries of the Diocese of Sacramento, the Diocese of Oakland, the Diocese of San Jose and the Diocese of Santa Rosa. The major goal this year or in two to three years time is to have a ministry development workshop for members from the Western Region.

Alaska

Archdiocese of Anchorage

No report. However, Special Needs Services are provided by the Catholic Social Services --- the Catholic Charities arm of the Archdiocese.

Diocese of Fairbanks

No report

Diocese of Juneau

No report

Arizona

Holy Mary of Protection Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

No report

Diocese of Phoenix

Interpreted Masses provided at the following parishes

Holy Cross Catholic Church in Mesa

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Phoenix

St. Timothy Catholic Church in Phoenix

Religious Education Classes and Interpreted Masses are provided at St. Simon & Jude Cathedral in Phoenix

NB: Please visit www.diocesephoenix.org for Mass Times and more information

Diocese of Tucson

Interpreted Masses are provided at Sacred Heart Parish

NB: Please visit www.sacredhearttucson.org for Mass Times

Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona Inc. continues to provide social services for the Deaf and Deafblind community in Arizona and New Mexico.

California

Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

No report

Diocese of Fresno

Josie Contente, the Catechetical Coordinator for the Diocese of Fresno is planning to set up a Religious Education and Ministry outreach program for Deaf families.

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Report from Holy Angels Church for the Deaf pending at the time of submission

Please visit www.hacofthedeaf.org for weekly liturgy schedule and more information

Diocese of Oakland

St. Joseph Center for the Deaf will continue to provide Mass and Religious Education program for the Deaf families living in the East Bay of the Bay Area. Holy Family Ethnic Mission will be closed at the end of 2010. Interpreted Mass is generally offered at St. Michael's in Livermore the first Sunday of every month and they have about 14 people who attend.

Diocese of Orange County

Report from Catholic Deaf Community pending at the time of submission

Please visit <http://www.rcbo.org/departments/catholic-deaf-community.html> for more information

Diocese of San Bernardino

Report pending at the time of submission

Please visit www.stcofa.org for our weekly liturgy schedule and more information

Diocese of Sacramento

Deaf Ministry in the Diocese of Sacramento for the year 2010 -2011

Deaf Catholics who use sign language are known to reside in at least 33 parishes in our diocese. Major achievements in ministering to this community during the year include commencement of sacramental preparation for Deaf children throughout the Diocese, on-going events with Father Paul Zirimenya, as well as steady growth in attendance at Sunday Mass at Newman Catholic Community. We are very blessed to have two signing Catechists who will teach religious education classes for the sacraments of First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and First Reconciliation beginning on January 16, 2011. Our on-going events with Father Paul Zirimenya continue to be a blessing as well; since the Diocese of Sacramento does not have a priest who can sign, the community members are deeply appreciative of the sacraments Fr. Paul provides when he is here as well as any one-on-one social time they have with him. Finally, Mass at the Newman Catholic Community has also been very enriching to the Deaf in the Diocese of Sacramento. The pastor and staff are eager to communicate with the Deaf community, and make every effort to provide communication access – and one Sunday every month someone from the Deaf community has the opportunity to be a lector and share the word of God in ASL.

The future goals for the Deaf community in the Diocese of Sacramento are as follows:

- Appointment of a chaplain or priest for the Deaf Catholic Community who is fluent in ASL for sacraments and pastoral care.

- Continued development of a community of believers who can share their faith with other Deaf individuals (both Catholic and non-Catholic).
- Interpretation services for communication with hearing priests, religious, parish staff, and fellow Catholics, so that the Deaf may participate fully in the life of the Church.
- Increased number of catechists trained to teach Deaf children, with emphasis on recruiting members of the Deaf community
- Recruitment and training to increase the number of skilled liturgical interpreters.
- Outreach, contact, and service to deaf Catholics in the northern counties of the diocese.

Please visit: http://www.diocese-sacramento.org/family_youth_young_adult/deaf_ministry.html for more information.

Submitted by Amber Cull, Coordinator for Deaf Ministry

Diocese of San Diego

Ms. Mary Jo Waggoner from the Diocesan chancery consulted NCOD in the last week of October, 2010 about resources to assist Deaf who wish to go for confession when the priest doesn't know sign language.

Catholic Deaf Community Interpreted Masses are provided at St. Rose of Lima in Chula Vista

NB: Please visit www.strosecv.net for Mass Times

Saint Peter the Apostle of Chaldeans

No report

Archdiocese of San Francisco

Currently, St. Benedict Parish is being served by three priests who offer Mass on Sundays on an alternative basis: Fr. Ghislain Bazikila and Fr. Paul Zirimenya who offer Masses in American Sign Language on Sundays, and Fr. Eric Freed who offers Mass for the Japanese community every third Sunday of the month. We are also blessed to have numerous volunteers who devote their time, treasure and talent. This is truly a remarkable sign of the Archdiocesan commitment to both Deaf Ministry and Japanese Ministry.

St. Benedict Parish continues to serve Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. Also many of our parishioners travel from other dioceses to come and worship with us. We continue to provide a full Religious Education Program for both hearing and deaf children. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is offered to those interested in joining the Catholic Church. Adult Faith Formation is provided every Sunday. As in the past, we are striving to have the first Sunday of the month give all parishioners an opportunity to shape our ministry through Town Hall meetings. Sunday Mass in American Sign Language is celebrated at 10:30a.m, followed by a social which nourishes bonds of community. All our services and sacraments are conducted in American Sign Language and English. As in the past, we are hoping to revive partnership with other parishes in the Archdiocese and nearby dioceses that may have Deaf members to let them know that we are available to assist them in bringing the Good News to their members. We are a parish which strives to be welcoming and accessible to all. The unique spirit of St. Benedict's continues to grow with a sense of the hospitality and communion we offer. We have lost some vital members of our Church due to illness and death, and others have had to move out of town. But with God's grace more and more of our members -- especially Youth -- are taking up leadership roles in the parish.

As our mission continues to grow, we are continuing to seek support in the form of grants and bequests to help us in reaching out to the Deaf Community. We hope expand our ministerial programs in the Archdiocese of San Francisco and Bay Area. Our mission is still guided by our two pillars of *Common Baptism* and *Faith Formation*. In the coming years we hope to accomplish basic outreach and setting up of regular classes, and local charity work by our Youth. The big picture is to become a vibrant parish for the Deaf, serving as a model in the Archdiocese in educating the public about the needs of the Deaf community in the Catholic Church.

Please visit www.sfdeafcatholics.org for our weekly liturgy schedule and more information

Diocese of San Jose

No report but Catholic Deaf Community used to gather at Christ the King Parish in San Jose

Diocese of Santa Rosa

Interpreted Mass is provided at St. Rose Church in Santa Rosa

NB: Please visit www.stroseonline.org for Interpreted Mass Time

Diocese of Stockton

Interpreted Mass is provided at the Church of the Presentation in Stockton

NB: Please visit www.presentationchurch.net for more information. Interpreted Mass Time is at 8:45AM every Sunday.

Idaho

Diocese of Boise

Interpreted Mass is provided at St. Mark's Catholic Community

NB: Please visit www.stmarksboise.org for Mass Time

Hawaii

Diocese of Honolulu

Interpreted Mass is provided at St. John Vianney Church in Kailua

NB: Please visit www.sjvhawaii.org for Mass Time

Nevada

Diocese of Las Vegas

Interpreted Mass is provided at Christ the King Catholic Community in Las Vegas

NB: Please visit www.ctlv.org for Mass Time

Diocese of Reno

No report

New Mexico

Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Ministry to/with the Deaf

Highlights of the past year in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe: In May Fr. Tom Coughlin met with Archbishop Michael Sheehan to discuss the possibility of assigning a future priest, Brother Joseph Thermadon to the archdiocese. Bro. Joseph is expecting to be ordained in four years and wishes to serve in deaf ministry here. The archbishop gave his support.

We have interpreted Masses at St. Anne and St. John the Baptist Catholic churches here in Santa Fe, at Nativity of the BVM and Queen of Heaven Churches in Albuquerque. We do not know of any ministry services in the dioceses of Las Cruces or Gallup—I think we would have heard of it if such was the case.

I am preparing one student for the sacrament of Confirmation through Nativity of the BVM Parish. Since he is a student at NMSD, I provide the instruction here and he joins in Masses, Youth meetings and community service projects in Albuquerque. Two interpreters are provided at Nativity for these activities.

Ardith Montano, who provided religious instruction to some younger Catholic students at NMSD last year, has not been able to do so this year due to her husband's suffering a stroke. He is slowly making a good recovery.

Fr. Tom Coughlin will be coming for a week-end in February to give a retreat especially for the confirmation student but all are invited. We are looking forward to that. That's about it for New Mexico.

Submitted by Ricardo and Dolores Gonzales

NB: Please visit www.archdiocesesantafe.org for Mass Times and more information

Diocese of Gallup

No report

Diocese of Las Cruces

No report

Oregon

Diocese of Baker

No report

Archdiocese of Portland

This year the Catholic Deaf in the Greater Portland area are using “C.A.R.E” as their theme. It stands for Community, Action, Reflection and Education. So how are we “living” this theme together? Here are some of the ways:

On the 4th Sunday of each month, after our Signed Mass with Fr. Pat Walsh, we enjoy a COMMUNITY Day together. In addition to social time we do something to focus on one of the other areas.

In October we donated supplies and assembled “HOPE Kits” which we gave to Medical Teams International. They will distribute them when they assist people in disaster areas in different parts of the world. We also donated personal care items and school supplies to a group of local Deaf friends, who travelled to Kenya after Thanksgiving. They are working to establish a school and make life better for disabled Kenyan children and their families. We are happy to be involved in these outreach projects, as part of our commitment to ACTION.

On the 4th Sunday of November we prepared for Advent together, sharing about the meaning and history of Advent. We also made Advent calendars to help us with daily REFLECTION during this holy season.

Our EDUCATION programs are available for people of all ages. Two of our Deaf teens are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this spring. We are very enthused about our Faith Formation classes for adults, giving us a much deeper understanding of our beliefs as Catholic Christians...especially what we believe about God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is always great discussion at these sessions!

Though none of us will be attending the Pastoral Week this year we do feel very connected to our Western Region and to NCOD, and are grateful for the leadership of Fr. Paul and the Board Members. We hope that in the future there can be a Region Weekend again, so we can share ideas and faith with our Western “neighbors”.

Please visit www.archdpx.org/deaf for our weekly liturgy schedule and more information

Submitted by Sr. Linda Roby, BVM

Utah

Diocese of Salt Lake City

Interpreted Mass is provided at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish in Salt Lake City

NB: Please visit [Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.](#) for Mass Time

Washington

Archdiocese of Seattle

Interpreted Masses are provided at the following Parishes

Holy Trinity in Bremerton

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Federal Way

Holy Family Parish in Kirkland

Holy Disciples Catholic Church in Puyallup

St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Seattle

St. Leo's Parish in Tacoma

NB: Please visit www.seattlearchdiocese.org for Mass Times and more information

Diocese of Spokane

No report

Diocese of Yakima

No report

Conclusion

In the future, we hope to have additional reports from other Arch/dioceses. I have also *suggested* to the NCOD Board that I think the Western Region should be divided into two; perhaps the North Western Region and South Western Region. One of the reasons is because 6 out of the first 10 largest states in the nation are located in the Western Region.