

# Fellowship Post

March 2020

a monthly Boston Deaf Catholic Community bulletin

## MY FAITH RETURNS

My granduncle was a Catholic priest in New Hampshire for many years. He helped to influence my family's strong faith in God. During the winter of 2006, my life changed. I had noticed that my health began to deteriorate. I called my primary doctor about my health concerns and he said that I needed to have blood tests done. After I got the normal results, the physician referred me to see a neurologist who requested a MRI. Once again, they did not find anything wrong.

For the next few months, my condition worsened. My primary doctor sent me to have more tests done. The results were the same - normal. For the following year I worked at my full time job at New England Homes for the Deaf as the Director of Social Services. Since my condition was worsening, I decided to take a medical leave for a few months and hoped to get better soon but I did not. I started to lose my faith in God after the test results were normal although I still had pain. Luckily my family gave me a lot of support and comfort during my difficult times as I was becoming very depressed. I went to the Cape to stay at my mother's home. The situation was worsening and I was sent to Cape Cod Hospital during early Labor Day morning after experiencing a lot of pain during my sleep. I had to stay there for three days. They were ready to release me from the hospital to go home. I became very frustrated because they still could not find anything wrong. Thankfully my brother-in-law would not let them send me back home and instead they sent me to a rehabilitation hospital in Salem. There I started to meet with a physical

Karen Powers, M.S.

therapist to help strengthen my muscles and met a different neurosurgeon who observed my walking and bodily movements. He carefully reviewed previous MRI results and finally found the cause. I needed surgery on the cervical area of my spine.

After my surgery, the hospital offered me an opportunity to meet with a psychologist because I was very depressed. Prior to the surgery, I was always independent and lived by myself for a long time. After the surgery, I was unable to dress all by myself and my entire body started to feel heavy. I was not able to communicate and use sign language or write because of the heaviness in my arms and they're not functioning well. I had a hard time walking normally and this also really scared me. Since my recovery was so slow, I was losing hope that I could go back to my normal life again. It was hard for me to trust that I could be independent again. It was a very difficult time for me and I was losing faith in God.

I will never forget this difficult and important time in my life. I was determined to join physical therapy everyday even though I could not do many exercises at the beginning. I continued to work at it. When I finally improved, the group cheered me on and clapped for me! Thankfully I had a wonderful doctor, physical and occupational therapists that helped save my life!

It was my tragic experience at the beginning that helped me find greater happiness in the end! I was able to go back home and live independently again. My faith is back and is stronger than ever! †

## CHURCH DUTIES At Sacred Heart, Newton

**March 1**

Set-up: Marcelle Gomez  
Lector: Betsy Ireland  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
Anna Murphy  
Kyle Murphy

**March 8**

Set-up: Susan Almeida  
Lector: Ken Osborne  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
Fran Noll  
Dale Noll

**March 15**

Set-up: Dale Noll  
Lector: Corinne Brennan  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
Rick Johnston  
Fran Noll

**March 22**

Set-up: Kyle Murphy  
Lector: Cheryl Johnston  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
Anna Murphy  
Rick Johnston

**March 29**

Set-up: Marcelle Gomez  
Lector: Kyle Murphy  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
Cheryl Johnston  
Fran Noll

**April 5**

Set-up: Susan Almeida  
Lector: Rick Johnston  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
Corinne Brennan  
Kyle Murphy

Contact Fran Noll at  
[fnoll28@aol.com](mailto:fnoll28@aol.com)  
regarding Church Duties.

## LENTEN CALENDAR 2020

February 29 - **Lenten Book Club**, 10am-noon  
Pastoral Center in Braintree

March 6, 7 & 8 - **Winter Retreat**  
Jacksonville, Vermont

March 14 - **Lenten Book Club**, 10am-noon  
Pastoral Center in Braintree

March 21 - **Lenten Book Club**, 10am-noon  
Pastoral Center in Braintree

March 28 - **Lenten Book Club**, 10am-noon  
Pastoral Center in Braintree

April 3 - **Soup and Stations of Cross**, 6-7:30pm  
Our Lady's, Washington St, Newton

April 4 - **Lenten Book Club**, 10am-noon  
Pastoral Center in Braintree

April 4 - **Palm Sunday Vigil Mass**, 5:30pm  
St. Francis in Braintree

April 5 - **Palm Sunday Mass**

7:45am at St. Clare in Braintree

11am at Sacred Heart in Newton

6pm at St. Clare in Braintree

April 7 - **Chrism Mass**, 10am

Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston

April 9 - **Holy Thursday Mass**, 7pm

Location TBD in Braintree

April 10 - **Good Friday Mass**, 7pm

St. Francis in Braintree

April 11 - **Easter Vigil Mass**, 8:30pm

Location TBD in Braintree

April 12 - **Easter Sunday Mass**

7am at St. Francis in Braintree

8:30am at St. Clare in Braintree

11am at Sacred Heart in Newton

1:30pm at NEHD in Danvers

**ASL Mass Schedule**

Officiated by Fr. Shawn Carey in ASL with VOICE INTERPRETED.

**SACRED HEART PARISH  
1321 Centre Street, NEWTON**

March 1, Sunday, 11am  
March 8, Sunday, 11am\*  
March 15, Sunday, 11am  
March 22, Sunday, 11am  
March 29, Sunday, 11am  
April 5, Sunday, 11am

**SAINT CLARE  
1244 Liberty Street, BRAINTREE**

March 1, Sunday 7:45am  
March 2, Monday, 9am  
March 8, Sunday, 6pm  
March 9, Monday, 9am  
March 14, Saturday, 4pm  
March 15, Sunday, 7:45am  
March 16, Monday, 9am  
March 23, Monday, 9am  
March 29, Sunday, 7:45am  
March 29, Sunday, 6pm  
March 30, Monday, 9am  
April 5, Sunday, 7:45am  
April 5, Sunday, 6pm

**SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
856 Washington St, BRAINTREE**

March 3, Tuesday, 7am  
March 10, Tuesday, 7am  
March 17, Tuesday, 7am  
March 22, Sunday, 9am  
March 24, Tuesday, 7am  
March 31, Tuesday, 7am  
April 4, Saturday, 5:30pm

**NEW ENGLAND HOMES FOR THE DEAF**

**154 Water Street, DANVERS**  
March 4, Wednesday, 2:30pm  
March 11, Wednesday, 2:30pm  
March 18, Wednesday, 2:30pm  
March 25, Wednesday, 2:30pm  
April 1, Wednesday, 2:30pm  
April 5, Sunday, 1:30pm

\*Fr. Shawn NOT present

Please check into [bostondeafcatholic.org](http://bostondeafcatholic.org) for any possible calendar changes.

**HOW THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HELPED DEVELOP THE WESTERN CIVILIZATION**

Rod MacInnes

If you are interested in history of the Catholic Church, which is now over 2000 years old, you will be interested in knowing how it had helped develop the today's thriving Western civilization. Following Jesus' model of loving and helping others, the early monks laid the foundation of many social institutions we enjoy today. They helped develop academies, universities, hospitals, hotels, and research institutions. These institutions were practically non-existent before Jesus' time partly

because people at that time did not care so much of others as of themselves. Jesus and his followers had transformed how people treat the poor, sick and disabled. Science along with authentic research tools was developed because of desire for knowing how God's world works. Later many of these institutions moved to the secular world from monasteries. Today we enjoy services from many institutions, including Social Security, Vocational Rehabilitation and hotels. A French priest started the first school for the deaf because he wanted two deaf girls to know God. Yes, the Catholic Church is not perfect and has made many mistakes, but it has learned from them and is working for a better world for all of us because it follows examples shown by Jesus Christ and allows the empowerment by the Holy Spirit. Summary of points made in a book by James Hitchcock (History of Christianity). †

**SENIOR DEAF WELLNESS PROGRAM**

There will be **no SDWP** on March 3, 2020. However, the Spotlight event will take place on March 17. Details will be announced later. Contact Betty Whittaker if you have any questions.

**e-FELLOWSHIP POST?**

Do you want to save paper? You can request future Fellowship Post be send to you electronically. All you have to do is contact Cheryl Johnston, Fellowship Post Editor, at [crjohnston5@gmail.com](mailto:crjohnston5@gmail.com). Please write e-Fellowship Post in subject. Thanks for saving trees! ♥

**ICDA UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Boston ICDA-US Conference 2021 Committee Meeting**  
March 22, 2020
- ICDA General Meeting**  
Sunday May 17, 2020
- Boston ICDA-US Conference 2021**  
June 27, 2021-July 2, 2021

**MARCH 8, 2020**



**Rosary Prayer**

Please show up at downstairs chapel no later than **10:15 a.m.**

**No confessions**



**ICDA CHAPTER #5 BOSTON IS HOSTING**

**ST. PATRICK'S BRUNCH**  
♣ SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020 ♣

**AT SACRED HEART PARISH  
MCKENZIE HALL  
IN NEWTON, MA**

♣ 12NOON AFTER 11AM ASL MASS ♣

**PLEASE BRING FOOD AND DRINKS**  
**CONTACT KAREN POWERS [Kepowers617@gmail.com](mailto:Kepowers617@gmail.com)**  
**LET HER KNOW WHAT YOU WILL BRING**  
**COME AND HAVE A FUN TIME!**

**Contact Information**

**The Office of the Deaf Apostolate**

Archdiocese of Boston  
66 Brooks Road  
Braintree, MA



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**ICDA Chapter 5 Boston Officers**

Rick Johnston, **President**  
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Kyle Murphy, **Vice President**  
Betsy Ireland, **Treasurer**  
Corinne Brennan, **Secretary**  
Fran Noll, **Member at Large**  
Karen Powers, **Member at Large**  
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Fr. Shawn Carey, **Moderator**