

## STUDENT HANDOUT: DISCUSSION: DEAF MASS

Discussion Instructions:

1. All students read and think about the quotation and the questions.
2. Each student takes a turn to speak, uninterrupted, for about a minute, while the other students just listen.
3. When everyone has had a turn to speak in this way, the group has a discussion for about 5 minutes.
4. Each group selects a reporter who describes the group's discussion to the entire class, without telling any one person's opinions.

### Discussion Option 1

"Judy Valente: Like Lynn Gallagher, most of the deaf are born into hearing families. They have grown up with a sense of isolation.

Ms. Gallagher: It was very lonely. I always felt very, very lonely. I do truly feel very much like this is my second family...."

- Why would being hearing-impaired lead to isolation?
- What are some things that hearing-impaired and hearing people can do to ease that loneliness?

### Discussion Option 2

"Father Mulcrone: When I started working in the deaf community I had to shut my ears off, and look at everything in terms of, not how does it sound, but how does it look? ... I always have to think, when I'm preaching -- can they picture what I'm saying? Preaching stories are really important, because the story allows them to picture the point."

Think about the idea of communicating through stories that can be pictured:

- What does that mean?
- How would this help hearing-impaired people?
- Do you think it would help hearing people as well?

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