

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – December 3-7, 2012  
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Which of these people is known as “The Apostle of the Deaf in the New World?”

- a. Thomas H. Gallaudet
- b. St. Thomas Aquinas
- c. Laurent Clerc
- d. Jean Massieu

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer “c” – Laurent Clerc, first deaf teacher of the Deaf in America, is known as “The Apostle of the Deaf in the New World.” He is known in this way because, like an Apostle in the religious sense, he spread the methodology of teaching deaf children via sign language in America and after helping Thomas Gallaudet found the American School for the Deaf, Clerc was instrumental in helping to establish many deaf schools across the United States which taught Deaf students using the sign language.

See the following website for an in depth discussion of the life of Laurent Clerc.

[http://www.gallaudet.edu/clerc\\_center/welcome/laurent\\_clerc\\_the\\_man.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/clerc_center/welcome/laurent_clerc_the_man.html)