



## PROVIDING AN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) INTERPRETER CATHOLIC FUNERALS

Deaf Apostolate, Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
215-587-3913 Voice Phone/ 267-507-1215 Video Phone for the Deaf

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*When family members or friends of the deceased are deaf or hard of hearing, the Deaf Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia can assist parishes in providing American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting services for Funeral Masses and the Rite of Committal.*

### How Do I Contact an Interpreter for a Catholic Funeral?

- The Archdiocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities & the Deaf Apostolate contracts with area interpreters who are skilled in religious setting interpreting. Individual parishes can utilize their services by calling the Deaf Apostolate at 215-587-3913 or emailing [sr.kschipani@archphila.org](mailto:sr.kschipani@archphila.org). Parishes are asked to assume responsibility for paying the interpreter or make a contribution to the Deaf Apostolate, who will then pay the interpreter. Interpreter fees range from \$35-50 dollars an hour. For regular assignments, interpreters have a two hour minimum. (This 2 hour minimum is sometimes waived for Religious Services.)
- Forms for requesting an interpreter and more information about ASL interpreters are on the Deaf Apostolate web page ([www.deafcatholicphilly.org](http://www.deafcatholicphilly.org)). Click on ASL Interpreters.
- Parishes and Funeral Directors can also contact the Deaf-Hearing Communication Center (DHCC), Interpreter Referral Division, 610-604-0452 or the Communication Connection, 610-272-4948.
- Local professional Sign Language interpreters may be contacted personally. *To expect parents, relatives or friends of the deaf to serve as their interpreters is usually not appropriate.*

### How Can the Deaf Apostolate Assist You?

- The staff of the Deaf Apostolate can assist you in meeting the spiritual, catechetical and sacramental needs of parish members who are deaf and hard of hearing. Contact:

***Sister Kathleen Schipani, IHM***

*Director*

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222 North Seventeenth Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-587-3913  
[sr.kschipani@archphila.org](mailto:sr.kschipani@archphila.org)

For on line request forms go to: <http://deafcatholicphilly.org/asl-interpreters/>