



DEAF CATHOLIC

NEWSLETTER

Volume 26 Issue 1

Fall 2025



Message from Fr. Loomis



My heart stirred within me as I walked down the paved pathway that cut through grassy hills to the old house. At various intervals along the path, hands were rapidly moving as different small groups of deaf individuals made their

way from one station to another. Our gathering at this scenic location was driven by a shared purpose: the Deaf Eucharistic Congress. The Congress convened in the beautiful setting of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine, a sanctuary that encompasses not only a magnificent church commemorating her life and legacy, but also a museum, a retail store, and the historic buildings that once served as her school, residence, and final resting place.

So why the stir? Naturally, my heart celebrated to see familiar faces from the Deaf community while my eyes feasted on the scenic backdrop of the Maryland hills. The inspiring messages by speakers Jeanine Adkins and Deacon Patrick Graybill left their mark on my soul, and the life of St. Elizabeth whose bones rested in the tomb where we prayed filled me with awe. But

none of these alone caused the stir. At a certain moment during the day, everything converged together in profession of a suddenly obvious truth: we are part of something much bigger than ourselves, and we encounter that mystery in the Church. In the Church, which Jesus gifts us, we find our fellowship among the Saints to inspire us, a history which reveals our patrimony, a creed that gives us our identity, fellow disciples with whom we share the journey, and the Eucharist that makes present the God who saves. In the Church, our own vocation becomes clear, our talents ordered toward a higher purpose, and our lives filled with meaning and belonging. In the Church, our lives make sense, and that simple truth moved me deeply.

As the sunset on this incredible occasion, my heart stirred once more, this time with hope. I hope that each of us continue to reach for these treasures from the Lord and find them in the life of the Church. As we welcome fall, I encourage each of you to consider now, how might you spend this season engaging your faith in the life of the Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Sean Loomis,

Chaplain to the Deaf Apostolate
fr.sloomis@archphila.org



The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton - Emmitsburg

Message from Sr. Kathleen

Greetings,

I just wanted to give you an update about my new ministry with the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart (IHM Sisters). As many of you know I was elected to the Leadership team of the congregation in the summer of 2023. In this work with the community, I assist with the administration of our ministries and the formation of our sisters. One of my responsibilities is assisting with the formation of our youngest members. On the last weekend of July, we had a new member receive her habit as a novice in the community and another sister make her first vows. Sister Samantha Scharf and Sister Megan Elizabeth are pictured with me.



While this is my full-time work, I am able now and then to interpret Mass on Sundays or for funerals. I also have continued to teach in the Deaf Ministry Formation Program and this summer I will be teaching in the Deaf Religious Enrichment Week (Deaf Crew). My email is s.k.schipani@IHMimm.org if you ever want to be in touch. You are in my prayers.

Blessings,

Sr. Kathleen Schipani

De Sales Society

Fred Pierami, who faithfully volunteered to work as our Treasurer for 15 years, has decided to resign his position in order to spend time with his extended family. Effective June 5, 2025, we are happy to have Jonathan Hartmann who joined as our new Treasurer. On June 17, 2025, we had a nice lunch celebrating Fred's departure at a local restaurant.

James Goodwin had a surgery on his left shoulder to remove a cyst on July 17, 2025. He returned back to MOHS to have the sutures removed on July 28, 2025.

Irene Kane is happy to be back home after her left hip replacement surgery on July 23, 2025. She feels alright and the physical therapist came by to see how she is recovering. Thank you for your prayers.

June Goodwin has been going to physical therapy to improve her muscles in her whole body since March until the end of July.

Previous news:

After the Christmas holiday, Irene Kane joined her family, including six people, for a trip to Vermont. They toured the Trapp Lodge, the famous lodge from the movie entitled "The Sound of Music." They also visited the Cabot Cheese Factory, and Ben & Jerry's ice cream factory and spent time shopping in Stowe. It was a lovely four-day getaway.

Liz and Nick Fazzolari are so proud of their daughter, Lisa, and granddaughter, Julia, for running at the War Eagle Run Fest at Auburn University in Alabama where Julia is a student. Julia ran the

1/2 marathon in under three hours which was amazing since she didn't even train for it! Lisa ran the 5K in 38 minutes. Congratulations to both of them!

It is saddening that Dianne Bond, a member of DeSales Society, passed away on Thursday, February 20th. We appreciated Dianne's participation in the DeSales Society group for a long time. On Thursday, February 27th, June, James and some Deaf friends attended Dianne's beautiful viewing and service at St. Catherine of Siena in Horsham, PA. Following the cemetery, Dianne's family and friends enjoyed reminiscing about the good times and eating at the North Hills Country Club.

On March 4, 2025, James and June Goodwin celebrated their 36th Anniversary and they enjoyed eating their delicious meals at William Penn Inn.

Take care,

James K. Goodwin
President and Editor
DeSales Society

ICDA News

Jeff & Linda Fitzgerald's grandson graduated Abington High School and will go to University of Pittsburgh "PITT". My two grandchildren, daughter and I went to Phillies games and got 4 bobbleheads of Realmuto.

On November 2, 2025, at noon, there will be a general meeting.

It's time to elect new ICDA officers 2026 - 2028, come and join the TEAM! We need you.

Anyone interested in becoming our Treasurer for ICDA Phila. Chapter #8, let Jeff Fitzgerald, President know at jjf1975@gmail.com or text- 484-892-9515. Also, if anyone is interested in volunteering for any events.

Jeff Fitzgerald, President
Philadelphia Chapter #8 of
International Catholic Deaf Assoc.
VP- 267-415-1488
Text- 484-892-9515
Email- jjf1975@gmail.com



Happy
Fall!

Archdiocese of Philadelphia - Deaf Apostolate
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

Do you know a Deaf or Hard of Hearing child that uses American Sign Language (ASL)? We are here to help with their religious education!

Contact us: Natalie Morales
DeafCatholic@archphila.org
215-587-3913 (voice)



The Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Deaf Apostolate will assist in providing Religious Education for children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and use American Sign Language. For more information, please contact Natalie Morales at DeafCatholic@archphila.org or call 215-587-3913 (voice).

Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia - Apostolado para Personas Sordas
EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA PARA NIÑOS SORDOS O CON PÉRDIDA AUDITIVA

¿Conoce a un niño sordo o con pérdida auditiva que use Lenguaje de Señas Americano (ASL)? ¡Estamos aquí para apoyarle en su formación religiosa!

Contáctanos: Natalie Morales
DeafCatholic@archphila.org
215-587-3913 (voice)

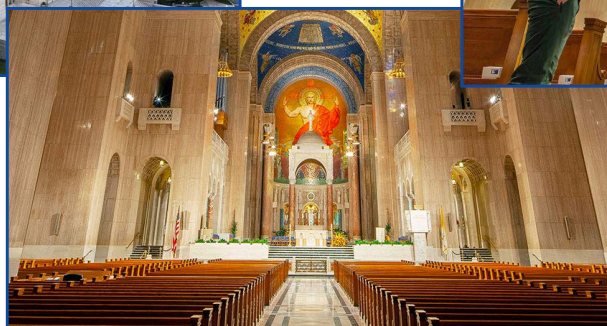
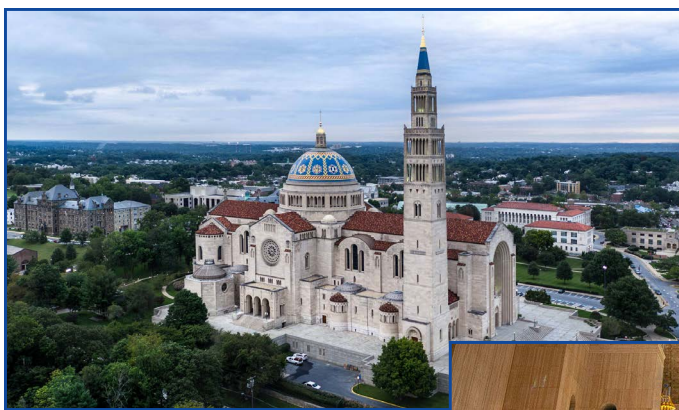


La Oficina del Apostolado para Personas Sordas de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia ofrece apoyo para brindar Educación Religiosa a niños sordos o con pérdida auditiva que utilizan el Lenguaje de Señas Americano (ASL). Para más información, comuníquese con Natalie Morales al correo electrónico DeafCatholic@archphila.org o llame al 215-587-3913 (voz).

Did you know?

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC offers tours for the Deaf & Blind.

What a great pilgrimage opportunity for this Jubilee Year! For more information visit <https://www.nationalshrine.org/blog/the-basilica-now-offers-tours-for-the-deaf-and-blind/>



Archdiocese of Philadelphia - Deaf Apostolate 2025-2026 Deaf Community ASL Mass Schedule

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	ADDRESSES
Sep. 14	Cardinal O' Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	St. Stanislaus Chapel 51 Lansdale Ave. Lansdale, PA 19446
Sep. 14	St. Matthew, Philadelphia	11:15 AM	St. Matthew Lower Church 3000 Cottman Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19149
Oct. 12	Cardinal O' Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	Cardinal O' Hara Catholic High School Chapel 1701 S. Sproul Road Springfield, PA 19064
Oct. 26	St. Stanislaus, Lansdale	11:45 AM	
Nov. 9	Cardinal O' Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	
Nov. 23	St. Stanislaus, Lansdale	11:45 AM	
Dec. 7	Cardinal O' Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	PASTORAL LEADERS
Dec. 14	St. Matthew, Philadelphia ICDA Christmas Party	11:15 AM	Rev. Seán Loomis, Chaplain St. Madeline Parish 110 Park Street Ridley Park, PA 19078 Pastor.stmadeline@gmail.com Phone: (610) 532-6880
Jan. 11	Cardinal O' Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	
Jan. 25	St. Stanislaus, Lansdale	11:45 AM	
Feb. 8	Cardinal O' Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	
Feb. 22	St. Stanislaus, Lansdale	11:45 AM	Msgr. Paul Dougherty, Chaplain St. Margaret Church 208 N. Narberth Avenue Narberth, PA 19072 Pastor@saintmarg.org Phone: (610) 664-3770
Mar. 8	Cardinal O' Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	
Mar. 15	St. Matthew, Philadelphia ICDA Easter Egg Hunt	11:15 AM	
Apr. 12	Cardinal O' Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	
Apr. 26	St. Stanislaus, Lansdale	11:45 AM	
May 10	Cardinal O' Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	Deaf Apostolate Coordinator DeafCatholic@archphila.org
May 24	St. Stanislaus, Lansdale	11:45 AM	
June 7	St. Matthew, Philadelphia	11:15 AM	Video Phone: 267-507-1215
June 14	Cardinal O' Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	Phone: 215-587-3913

Confessions are 30 minutes before Mass. You can also email or call Father Seán Loomis or Monsignor Paul Dougherty to arrange a time for Confession in ASL.

Check for updates and full schedule of interpreted Masses at www.DeafCatholicPhilly.org



International Catholic Deaf Association

Philadelphia Chapter #8

ICDA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2026

Register on line at: www.DeafCatholicPhilly.org

Benefits of becoming a member are: cultural, spiritual and social union among the Deaf/HOH Catholics and opportunities to engage in good works pertaining to the spiritual, educational, social and moral advancement of Deaf/HOH persons.

**INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC DEAF ASSOCIATION - UNITED STATES SECTION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR PHILADELPHIA ICDA CHAPTER #8**

I hereby submit my application for membership in the ICDA-US.

_____ Annual Membership for Married Couples - \$25.00

_____ Annual Membership for Individuals - \$15.00

_____ Life Membership - \$200.00 (Pay in full or partial payment over 2 years)

_____ Life Membership for Married Couples- \$300.00

I am Deaf_____ / Hearing_____ and Catholic_____ / Non-Catholic_____.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Cell Phone/Text _____ FAX _____

E-Mail _____ VP _____

(Make Check/Money Order payable to ICDA, chapter #8)

Send form and payment to:

**ICDA c/o Jeffrey Fitzgerald, President, Chapter #8
300 Kilgannon Lane
Lancaster, PA 17603.**

DEADLINE FOR MEMBERSHIP IS February 15, 2026



**WE ARE
HIRING**

**The Deaf Apostolate is seeking candidates for a
Full-Time Deaf Apostolate & Operations Coordinator!**

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply. If you know someone who is passionate about serving the Deaf community, please share this opportunity and invite them to consider applying.

Visit: <https://deafcatholicphilly.org/> for details and the application link. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE ICDA-US 75 YEARS ANNIVERSARY BASH

**FRIDAY, OCT. 10 – 12 NOON TO
SUNDAY OCT. 12 - 12:00 NOON**

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH US!

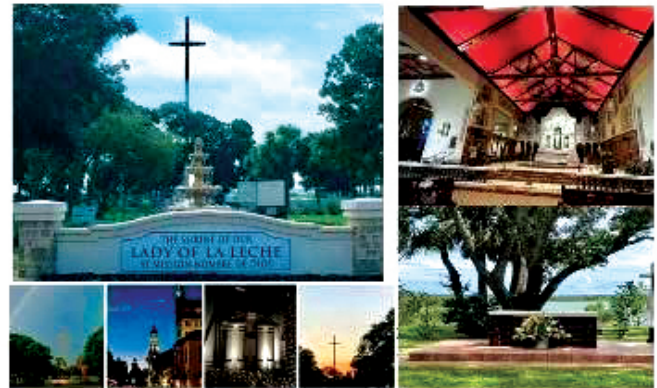
At Hampton Inn
St. Augustine Downtown Historic District
1302 N. Ponce De Leon Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-494-2100

Room cost: \$125 per night

Free breakfast if you stay at Hampton Inn

Group Code will be ready by March 21, Friday
Deadline: Monday, Sept 1, 2025

Check www.icda-us.org for more information
(website info will be ready by March 21)



GENERAL – WHAT ST. AUGUSTINE CAN OFFER

St. Augustine is important for Catholic Heritage, Deaf Heritage, and Black Heritage.

Catholic:

St. Augustine is the site of the FIRST Mass celebrated in the US in 1565.

The Cathedral of St. Augustine, an example of Spanish Mission architecture, was built in 1791 in the town center. Catholic Mass has continually been celebrated here everyday since 1565. We have three important first class relics in town: St. Augustine, Pope St. John II, and Carlo Acutis. Numerous historic cemeteries, Mission Nombre de Dios/Our Lady of La Leche National Shrine, and the Castillo de San Marcos are all walkable from the Hampton Inn.

Deaf:

The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is in town. Established in 1885, it is one of the schools for the Deaf in the US. Ray Charles, blind, a beloved world-famous musician, attended the school.

Black:

Martin Luther King visited St. Augustine and walked the "Freedom Trail" during the Civil Rights Movement. A Black History Museum in downtown St. Augustine, St. Benedict the Moor, served the Native American population, growing from a mission site.

Outside of these specific historical interests, St. Augustine also boasts a 300-year-old Spanish national monument, unique in construction and position. The beach is 5 miles away from the center of town.

Come and join us as we look back on our ICDA-US History and bring us into the future. We will have a workshop, and a pilgrimage and Mass with a banquet. We will put "a program schedule" on the website. We are working on a transportation plan from JAX to St. Augustine.

DEAF CATHOLIC



Conference site: Hampton Inn - Historical District
1302 N Ponce De Leon Blvd. St. Augustine, FL

PLEASE FILL THIS OUT FOR EACH PERSON AND PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Mobile Phone: _____ Email Address: _____
EMERGENCY: Contact: _____ Phone/VP: _____

Please check all that apply:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Deaf | <input type="radio"/> Hearing | <input type="radio"/> Deaf-Low Vision |
| <input type="radio"/> ICDA-US Member | <input type="radio"/> ICDA Lifetime Member | <input type="radio"/> NON Member |
| <input type="radio"/> Chapter Member | Chapter Number # _____ | <input type="radio"/> Need Voice Interpreter? |

REGISTRATION/EVENT FEE (check one)

Deadline is before September 5, 2025

Combo (Includes: Friday Dinner, Saturday Lunch & Dinner, and Trolley Ticket)

Day-Hop (Friday Only including Friday Dinner)

Day-Hop (Saturday Only including Saturday Lunch & Dinner, and Trolley Ticket)

Saturday Night Banquet ONLY at DoubleTree

Day-Hop (Sunday Only)

TOTAL

MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
<input type="radio"/> \$150	<input type="radio"/> \$175
<input type="radio"/> \$40	<input type="radio"/> \$55
<input type="radio"/> \$110	<input type="radio"/> \$125
<input type="radio"/> \$60	<input type="radio"/> \$75
FREE	FREE
\$	\$

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS (Allergies, G-F, Veg, etc) please specify: _____

No refund after September 5, 2025.

Please make a check or money order payable to
ICDA-US (US FUNDS) and mail this form to:

ICDA-US; c/o 75th BASH; PO BOX 88751;
Carol Stream, IL 60188-8751

For more info about registration, contact us at
theicdaushomeoffice@gmail.com, OR visit ICDA-US.org



Transportation information for ICDA-US

75th Anniversary Bash Weekend!

If you are flying into Jacksonville, FL

You need to find your own transportation or

Use our charter bus. It will take 1 hour drive to St. Augustine, FL

We have scheduled buses to come and meet you at Jacksonville Airport
and take you down to Hampton Inn, Historic District,
1302 N Ponce De Leon Blvd, St. Augustine, FL 32084
\$55.00 Round Trip.

(50.00 for the ride, 5.00 for driver's tip)

Please sign up at <https://forms.gle/Azvf7PqQ6nd2GhaU7>

Please pay your bus fee to Zelle, paypal on www.icda-us.org "Conference"
or mail a check to:

ICDA-US Treasurer, P.O. Box 88751, Carol Stream, IL 60188-8751

Attn: Bus

October 10, Friday

JAX to St. Augustine

Pickup times:

10:00 am

12:00 noon

2:00pm

October 12, Sunday

St. Augustine to JAX

Pick up time: 10:15am

Any questions, please email theicdaushomeoffice@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

SPONSORED BY
INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC DEAF ASSOCIATION CHAPTER #8

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2025

MASS AT 11:15 AM

ST. MATTHEW CHURCH

3000 COTTMAN AVE

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19149

**50/50 CHANCE - BUFFET - DRINK-
DESSERT**

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN
(UP TO 10 YEARS OLD)

SIGNING SANTA IS COMING!



SEND TO JEFFERY FITZGERALD, 300 KILGANNON LANE, LANCASTER, PA 17603
MAKE CHECK OR MONEY PAYABLE TO I.C.D.A. CHAPTER #8
DEADLINE NOVEMBER 30, 2025

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

VIDEOPHONE _____

OF ADULT (11 YEARS AND OVER) _____ \$15.00 EACH _____

OF CHILDREN (UP TO 5 YEARS OLD) _____ \$5.00 EACH _____

OF CHILDREN (6 - 10 YEARS OLD) _____ FREE _____

TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

PLEASE (PRINT CLEARLY) LIST NAMES,
AGE AND GENDER OF YOUR CHILDREN ON THE BACK
OF THIS FORM

Easter EGG HUNT

**A FAMILY
EVENT**

50/50 CHANCE -
BUFFET
- DRINK- DESSERT



SPONSORED BY
INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC DEAF ASSOCIATION CHAPTER #8

SUNDAY MARCH 15, 2026
MASS AT 11:15 AM
ST. MATTHEW CHURCH
3000 COTTMAN AVE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19149

SEND TO JEFFERY FITZGERALD, 300 KILGANNON LANE, LANCASTER, PA 17603
MAKE CHECK OR MONEY PAYABLE TO I.C.D.A. CHAPTER #8
DEADLINE FEBRUARY 22, 2026

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

VIDEOPHONE _____

OF ADULT (11 YEARS AND OVER) _____ \$15.00 EACH _____

OF CHILDREN (UP TO 5 YEARS OLD) _____ \$5.00 EACH _____

OF CHILDREN (6 - 10 YEARS OLD) _____ FREE _____

TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN
(UP TO 10 YEARS OLD)

PLEASE (PRINT CLEARLY) LIST NAMES,
AGE AND GENDER OF YOUR CHILDREN ON THE BACK
OF THIS FORM

Deaf Eucharistic Congress

April 4-6, 2025 • The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



The Annual Deaf Retreat weekend took place on April 25-27 at the Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center.



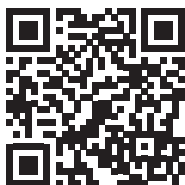
On July 29, 2025, Father Mike Depcik celebrated his 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood with a Mass and a party in the Archdiocese of Baltimore where he serves the Deaf Catholic Community.



**Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Deaf Apostolate
222 North Seventeenth St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299**

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EMAIL: _____

SEND TO: DEAF APOSTOLATE
222 NORTH 17TH STREET - 8TH FLOOR
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-1299

Email: wgriffin@archphila.org

☐ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

☐ INTERESTED IN NEWSLETTER



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610-583-4004 • info@archwaypress.net

*Save the
Date*



April 10-12, 2026

The Deaf Apostlate of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Camden will be hosting a retreat at Villa Maria by the Sea in Stone Harbor, New Jersey. The presenter



will be Father Mike Depcik.

More information will follow.

Save the date and plan to attend.