



PROVIDING AN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) INTERPRETER CATHOLIC FUNERALS

Deaf Apostolate, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
215-587-3913 V / 215-587-0510 TTY / 267-507-1215 VP

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 interpreting services for Funeral Masses and the Rite of Committal.

How Do I Contact an Interpreter for a Catholic Funeral?

- The Archdiocesan Department for Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities (PCPD) 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 pcpddeaf@adphila.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 Archdiocesan web page (www.archphila.org). Click on the Respect Life Office / Deaf Apostolate. (<http://archphila.org/evangelization/resplife/deafapos/interpreters.htm>)
- 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
Administrator

Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities
and the Deaf Apostolate
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