

September 21, 2020
Feast Of St. Matthew.

Dear friends,

I just wanted to share an update with you about our Deaf Ministry.

Last week I had a chance to meet with Msgr. Nelson as well as with Fr. Joe. They both have very good insights about deaf ministry and they shared some very good advice with me.

I wanted to let you know, I will be learning Religious Signs from Msgr. Nelson. He has generously agreed to teach me weekly how to sign the mass. I know most of the signs already but I want to get the ASL knowledge from him. I have been to one of his Masses and I really loved how he signs the Mass.

As far as our Mass goes, I'm hoping to get it going within a month now. I will ask Br. John and one of you, whoever wants to help, to help us find a parish where we can host it. I need to delegate this in order to work more efficiently.

I still have to meet with a couple people from the Diocese to see what their vision for the Deaf Ministry is, but Fr. Joe mentioned something that is very important. He told me that I have to think about our Deaf Ministry in the diocese as if it was a parish (with big boundaries!) which translates to: providing the sacraments for the deaf community in the Diocese of Joliet. With that being said, I want to make myself available for all of you for celebrating the Sacraments. When it comes to the sacrament of confession, there are two options:

- 1) St. Mary Immaculate Parish offers confessions every Saturday at 2.30pm. I'm here every weekend. You're more than welcome to come and I will do you confession face to face.
- 2) If that time/day does not work for you, you can always email me and we will work out another day and time for you to come to Confession.

If you are scheduled to have a surgery, or you are ill (except for COVID. No COVID anointings because there is a PLENARY INDULGENCE already for COVID patients) you can also email me and we will find a time to get you the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. KNOW that I'm here for you and we can pray for you too. Also if you ever have a pastoral emergency (someone dying or someone had an accident and needs the Last Rights) you can email me and please include your VP number, I'm pretty good at checking my email and replying quick if it is an emergency. Likewise for Baptisms and Funerals, if you need any of these, please contact me via email and I will help you organize something.

My email is rsida@smip.org and my VP phone number is 779-234-2002. I prefer emails, as they're easier for me to follow up. Feel free to reach out, even to say hi!

I hope everyone is doing well, I really miss seeing you face to face. May God bless all of you.

In Christ,
Fr. Ramon Sida

Chaplain for the Deaf Ministry in the Diocese of Joliet