



Catholic Office of the Deaf



Signs of the Times



Volume 66

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July-December 2012 Deaf Mass Schedule is enclosed!

Mark your calendars!
Our Christmas Party will be December 16

Jack Mabley Christmas Party will be December 8

Summer has arrived!

Information on our annual picnic is located on page 4 of this issue. We hope to see you there!



His Excellency's Coat of Arms

"FIDES SPES CARITAS" in English reads: FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY, the three theological Virtues that Bishop Malloy wishes to be the basis of his pastoral program.

On the left of the shield is the Rockford Diocese Coat Of Arms, the personal Coat of Arms of Bishop Malloy is on the right.

Most Reverend David J. Malloy Our Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Rockford

The Rockford Deaf Apostolate Office is proud to present our new shepherd of The Diocese of Rockford. Bishop David J. Malloy was ordained and installed on May 14, 2012, at the BMO Harris Bank Center (former Metro Center) in Rockford. Those who were able to attend this solemn event all agree that it was breathtaking, inspirational and very beautiful. More than 5,000 people and over 200 clerics were in attendance. Thousands arrived early to pray the rosary before the start of the event. Bishop Malloy thanked those in attendance and asked the faithful to "strengthen our common love of the church. Please pray for me each and every day," he said. "I will be praying for you." A special thank you goes to our interpreter Sheila Antosch for giving her time and talent in interpreting the entire event for our Deaf Catholics.

Diocesan News



From the Director:

Msgr. Glenn L. Nelson

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Summer is here and what an exciting few months it has been! As you know, our dear Bishop Doran has retired with the permission of Pope Benedict XVI! We have been praying for God to send us a new shepherd and He has answered our prayers! Bishop David Malloy was ordained the 9th bishop of the Diocese of Rockford on May 14, 2012. Hopefully you will have an opportunity to meet him in person. Please pray for him as he begins his new life as a Shepherd of this local church! Bishop Malloy has asked that I continue my work in Rockford in the Chancery Office as well as my work with the Deaf. So, business as usual! (smile).

I want to call your attention to the Fortnight for Freedom (page 3 of this newsletter). This is a nationwide effort for the Catholic Church in the United States to pray for God's help in protecting our free-

dom as Catholics living in the United States. Since the founding of our great nation and as established in the Constitution, we have always enjoyed a freedom of religion to practice our faith. Yes, we Catholics have sometimes endured criticism and bigotry from other people, governmental laws and agencies... but the Constitution of the United in the First Amendment has always stated that: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This means that no governmental agency can prohibit the free exercise of our faith. A law, recently made by the Department of Health and Human Services would require Catholic institutions to provide health insurance coverage that includes contraceptive and sterilization services which are contrary to our Catholic teaching. The First Amendment does not allow the government to do this and so we are praying that we will not lose our right as Catholics and American citizens

to freely follow our consciences and to obey what God expects us to do. I encourage you to pray for our freedom that it will continue. Pray also for our new bishop as he leads us in these challenging times. Pray for Bishop Doran as he enjoys his retirement. And pray for all our Deaf brothers and sisters that they may open their hearts to feel God's call to become faithful followers of his Son, Jesus Christ, who suffered and died so that our sins could be forgiven.

I hope to see you all in DeKalb for our annual summer picnic! It is always a wonderful time to share the 'lazy days of summer' together.

God bless you all!!!



Printable colored copies of our Newsletter and event information is Available on our website: <http://RockfordDiocese.org/DeafApostolate/> (If you no longer want a mailed copy and prefer e-mail, contact DBeatty@RockfordDiocese.Org)

Please pray for...

Those who are sick:

Those members of our Deaf Apostolate and their families



Those who have died:

James J. Villani—June 8, 2012—Age 81
Member of St. Anthony, Rockford
Chairman of the Deaf Senior Citizen Organization in Springfield
Husband of Clara, Father of Roma, Tony and Ann



(If someone is sick or has died, please let us know so we can pray for them)

Fortnight for Freedom

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

O God our Creator,

Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

JUNE 21 to JULY 4, 2012



The fourteen days from June 21—the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More—to July 4, Independence Day, are dedicated to this "fortnight for freedom"—a great hymn of prayer for our country. Our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power—St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. Ending on Independence Day, this special period of prayer, study, catechesis, and public action will emphasize both our Christian and American heritage of liberty. Dioceses and parishes around the country have scheduled special events that support a great national campaign of teaching and witness for religious liberty.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."--First Amendment

It is no mistake that our founding fathers gave these important rights priority in our constitution. The freedom of religion is rooted in the very dignity of every human person regardless of the individual faith they choose to practice.

Until recently, our laws have respected and honored the conscience rights of religious institutions and individuals—a heritage that has helped the United States stand out among free nations around the world.

Assaults to our right to exercise the faith we hold dear, and our ancestors have held for more than 2,000 years, have been direct and unrelenting over the past two years.

As Catholics, we cannot and will not compromise our core beliefs. We cannot and will not allow any government mandate to force us to participate in any activity morally or religiously objectionable.

Therefore we take this opportunity to make our voices one and to make them heard through education, action and prayer. On this website you will find the tools necessary to do all of it. Please use these resources personally and in your parish so together, we might protect our first, most cherished freedom ... religious liberty.

Bishop David J. Malloy

Annual Deaf Picnic

Deaf Ladies of the Visitation

PROUDLY HOSTS

Deaf Apostolate 2012 Picnic

COME AND JOIN WITH US TO CELEBRATE MASS & PICNIC!



WHEN: July 29, 2012

TIME: 12:00 pm - Deaf Mass

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Picnic



WHERE: Newman Catholic Student Center

Christ the Teacher University Parish

512 Normal Road

DeKalb, IL 60115

*** The sandwiches, beverages, cake and homemade potato salad will be provided. ***

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISHES!

(For example) Relish Tray, Veggie Tray, Watermelon, Pasta Salad, Fruit Salad, Baked Green Beans, Fruit Tray, etc.

Games for kids! Prizes! Chinese Auction!

Everyone is Welcome!

For more, please contact: E-mail Cathy Signor at cathy.signor@yahoo.com or Videophone Dawn Martin at 815-977-7640.

