



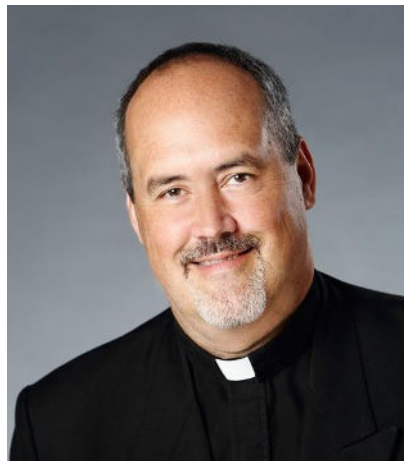
INSTITUTE FOR
Evangelization
Office of Life, Justice & Peace
Archdiocese of Baltimore



DEAF MINISTRY

February 2023

GREAT NEWS!



I am honored to announce that Archbishop William Lori has invited Fr. Michael Depcik, OSFS, to come to the Archdiocese of Baltimore to be the Chaplain for Deaf Ministry beginning sometime this summer. Fr. Mike has answered, “Yes,” to the invitation. For thirteen years, Fr. Mike has been the Director of the St. John’s Deaf Center in Detroit, Michigan. He grew up in a Deaf family in Chicago and attended the St. Rita School for the Deaf in Cincinnati, OH. He has a Master of Arts degree in Divinity from Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary and a Master of Arts degree in Mental Health Counseling from Gallaudet University. He was ordained in June 2000 and joined the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. Fr. Mike is one of fewer than two dozen culturally Deaf priests in the world and nine in the U.S. Welcome, Fr. Mike!

Fr. Mike Depcik will be here for Mass in ASL on the following weekends: March 25-26, 2023; May 20–21, 2023. Please save the dates.



Deacon Luke Koski is scheduled to be ordained a priest.

On Saturday, June 24, Deacon Luke Koski is scheduled to be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Deacon Luke has been working to improve his ASL so that he can celebrate the sacraments in ASL.

Please save the date and plan to attend the ordination. As a deacon, Luke has served at St. John the Evangelist in Frederick and St. Joseph on Carrollton Manor in Buckeystown. In July 2022, Luke participated in a week-long Religious ASL training in Rockford, Illinois with Msgr. Glenn Nelson, Deacon Patrick Graybill, and interpreter Joan Macy.

On January 19, several Members of the Advisory Committee on Deaf Ministry met with Archbishop William Lori and shared with him archdiocesan the **Pastoral Plan for Deaf Ministry**. Present for the meeting were: Marie Williams, Carol Polizzi, Cathy Babb, and Chris Duck. Julie St. Croix, the Director of the Office of Parish Renewal, who helped guide the committee through the development process, was also present.



Six priority strategies were identified in the Pastoral plan to be focused on initially.

Action Steps have been developed. Four Action Groups are being formed to work on implementation of the plan. The four groups are: Training for Parishes, Retreats, Interpreting, and Get-togethers/Regional Meetings. **If you are interested in one of these areas, please contact Chris Duck at chris.duck@archbalt.org.**



The National Catholic Office of the Deaf (NCOD) invited Chris Duck to be a speaker at their Pastoral Week 2023 in Santa Fe, NM at the end of January. The presentation entitled “Creating a Pastoral Plan for Deaf Ministry” was well received. Many of the participants from other dioceses thought that the

process used here in the Archdiocese of Baltimore could be adapted and used in their settings.

Fr. Mike Depcik and Sr. Kathleen Schipani are part of the staff for Jesus' Deaf CREW (Catholic Religion Enrichment Week). It is a wonderful program for Deaf Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. It will occur on August 6-11 in Michigan. Cost is \$325. Past participants have really liked it. The link for the form is <https://forms.gle/ULjQCSzuBt7dzUGq5>



Deaf/ Hard of Hearing adults who use ASL, who desire a deep understanding of their faith and to be empowered to live and share their faith. This is an opportunity to encounter Jesus, and become a disciple – *Jesus' Deaf Crew!*

• *Interested?*
CLICK HERE

to complete a form to show your interest or email
JesusDeafCrew@gmail.com

• *Catholic Religious Enrichment Week*

is a two-year program in the summer. Participants will have the opportunity for morning classes, Mass and times of prayer while enjoying time to socialize and enjoy the beauty of a 214- acre lakefront woodland surrounding Vineyard Lake in Brooklyn, Michigan. The program is limited to 24 participants.

• *Cost for the week!*
\$325