



February 28, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In this Jubilee 2025 year, we are called in a special way to be Pilgrims of Hope. The Jubilee logo, with its four figures representing all of humanity from the four corners of the earth, reminds us that as pilgrim people, we journey together, united as the Body of Christ, toward Jesus and the eternal life He won for us.

We understand that there are members of the Body of Christ, people joining us as pilgrims on the journey, who experience their pilgrimages in different ways, whether it be communicating in different languages, moving with different levels of mobility or praying and worshipping with the need for adaptations or accommodations. As a unified Body of Christ, we are called to bring Christ, His Church and His sacraments to those fellow pilgrims.

Responding to that call, I'm pleased to announce the formation of a new ministry to serve the deaf members of our diocesan family. Led by Father Fernando Solomon, who has extensive experience ministering in American Sign Language (ASL), this Deaf Ministry hopes to enable members of the deaf community to fully participate in Holy Mass, the sacraments and opportunities for faith formation to individuals who communicate using ASL.

If you are or know an individual who communicates using ASL and would like to participate in the life of the Church in ASL, please reach out to Father Solomon at (315) 769-2469 or fsolomon@rcdony.org to discuss available resources and how we can meet identified needs, and please keep this new and vital ministry, and all those joining us as Pilgrims of Hope, in your prayers.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg