

The Deaf Are Heard



Keith G. Dorchner, third vice-president in charge of Canadian affairs, leads discussion.

At the George Eastman House 150 visitors explored the exhibits, in animated conversation. Only footsteps could be heard. A solitary girl walked through the Strasenburgh Planetarium with her hands dancing. In St. Mary's Church a man knelt and with his fingers prayed to God.

It has been said that blindness separates man from things, but that deafness separates man from man. Last week, however, the 1,000 representatives of the International Catholic Deaf Association, meeting in Rochester for their 26th annual convention, appeared very much in touch with their deaf brothers and sisters, themselves, and their Church.

As a body the delegates were concerned with renewal and youth outreach. Local chapters of ICDA will seek more cursillos, marriage encounters, and teen seminars geared for the deaf. It also was suggested that the young be encouraged to participate by giving them one year free membership in ICDA and a year's subscription to the organization's publication. The convention also discussed the need for a home office and ways of supporting such an undertaking.

Social and liturgical events highlighted the week. Monday night Mayor Thomas Ryan welcomed the group to Rochester. Bishop Dennis W. Hickey encouraged the group in a homily delivered at St. Mary's Church Thursday afternoon. He told them that "when we're misunderstood God's omniscience is very comforting."

Members of the delegation toured Kodak Park, the Eastman House,

Strasenburgh Planetarium, Niagara Falls, and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf located on the RIT campus. Thursday night Dr. Robert Frisina, director, was guest speaker at the convention banquet. Father Thomas Erdle, coordinator of the apostolate to the deaf in the Rochester diocese, reported that Dr. Frisina encouraged the spirit of joy in the ICDA deaf community, adding that because of that joy they would be able to do much.

The convention ended Saturday night with a Grand Ball at the Rochester Americana.

Next year the ICDA will convene in Los Angeles.



Joseph Bruce, deaf Jesuit seminarian, said, "Give to youth."

Text by Bonita Baldwin
Photos by Susan McKinney



NTID tour guide explains the Institute.



Amelia Edwards of New York City and Col. James Parker from Rhose Island chat in the Eastman House.