

NADD NEWS

APRIL 2009

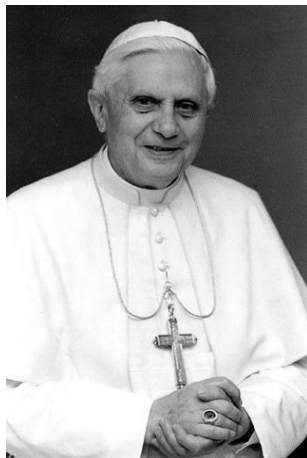
The Deacon as a Prophetic Voice:

Pope Benedict XVI encourages personal dedication in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ

As this year's NADD convention planning reached critical decision points last fall, we were edified by our Holy Father's homily during Vespers at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris on September 10, 2008. Addressing the deacons present and throughout the world that day, Pope Benedict referred to his "dear deacons" by saying:

Effective co-workers of the Bishops and priests, continue to love the word of God! You proclaim the Gospel at the heart of the Eucharistic Celebration, and you expound it in the catechesis you offer to your brothers and sisters. Make the Gospel the centre of your lives, of your service to your neighbors, of your entire diakonia.

Without seeking to take the place of priests, but assisting them with your friendship and your activity, may you be living witnesses to the infi-



Pope Benedict XVI

nite power of God's word.

We readily acknowledge our understanding that proclaiming the Gospel at Mass is for the deacon a powerful open sign of our responsibility to be ministers of the Word in all environments. What we do in the sanctuary should always be a reflection of our faithfulness in proclaiming elsewhere the saving power of God's word for the hearts and minds of those we encounter in the world.

As we enter another Easter season, magnifi-

cent with the flowering of God's plan for His creation, let us pray for all those who will come to share with us their message of how, with God's grace, we can continue to develop as effective evangelizers in leading others to Christ. It is with great eagerness that I anticipate seeing you in Chicago!

**Deacon Sam Anzalone
Chairman**

NADD offices to be closed Holy Week

Please note that the Columbus offices of NADD are closed Holy Week in keeping with the Pontifical College Josephinum schedule. We will resume work on Monday, April 13. We wish our membership and their families a joyous and blessed Easter!

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CALENDAR

April 20
Executive Committee Meeting
Chicago

April 21
Board of Directors Meeting
Chicago

April 22
New Directors' Institute
Women's Workshop
Directors' Workshop
Chicago

April 23-25
NADD Convention
Chicago

June 14
Executive Committee Meeting
Pontifical College Josephinum
Columbus, Ohio

June 14-19
New Directors' Institute
Pontifical College Josephinum
Columbus, Ohio

September 16
Executive Committee Meeting
PCJ - Columbus
BOD Dinner/Reception

September 17, 18
Board of Directors Meeting
Pontifical College Josephinum
Ends at noon on the 18th

Meet Reverend James Steffes at the NADD Convention

The latter half of 2008 was my introduction to the USCCB as the executive director of the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, as I began service on August 1. Having been ordained in 1993 for the Diocese of Winona, Minnesota, a majority of my priestly ministry has been in the field of formation. I am grateful for the years during which I was able to serve as the diocesan director of vocations and seminarians (1996-2002), as director of spiritual formation of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona (1997-2002) and then as rector of the same institution (2002-2008). These experiences as well as serving in par-

ishes and schools, within our diocesan permanent deacon program; and on the board that created our diocesan program, and on a number of diocesan, regional, and national boards have prepared me for this ministry at the bishops' conference, in which the secretariat serves as a resource to the bishops and dioceses across the country.

It is with great enthusiasm that I meet the many areas of ministry that interconnect with the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations from across the country and into the Vatican. With this

enthusiasm and joy I look forward to a continued collaboration with the National Association of Diaconate Directors and in particular to interact with you at your national convention this April. I have had the great pleasure of interacting with Deacon Sam Anzalone over the past few months and look forward to other en-

counters with him and many of you in the months to come. Please know of my support, encouragement, willingness to collaborate and prayers for all of you. Blessings.

**Reverend James P. Steffes, STL,
Executive Director**



Rev. James Steffes

2009 Nominee for Vice Chair - Justin Green

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as vice-chair for the past two years. When I addressed the membership in 2007, I promised to use whatever gifts and abilities that God gave me support NADD. Over the last two years, I have attempted to accomplish this goal.

My bishop and my wife gave me the time to serve on the Executive Committee when we did not have an Executive Director and to help with the move to Columbus. Sam asked me to chair the committee on the New Directors' Institute. With the



Deacon Justin Green

help of outstanding committee members, the first session will be held in Chicago and the residency program in Columbus this summer. Sam asked me to use the experience that I have gained in 20 years of consulting with nonprofit organizations on structure, fund raising and strategic planning to revise our Policies and Procedures Manual. It took awhile, but it's done. During my consulting experience, I helped many organizations formulate a strategic plan. The Board authorized an *ad hoc* committee on planning, and

the survey that you completed is the first step in planning. If re-elected, I pledge again to be a good steward of God's gifts, to place the blessings I have received in the service of NADD and of the diaconate. I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve NADD during the past two years. I humbly ask that you extend it to me again.

Deacon Justin Green
Director Deacon Formation
Diocese of Winona
NADD Vice Chair 2007 - 2009

Three Convention Interest Sessions Address Current Issues

Three timely interest sessions are arranged for Saturday morning, April 25 – the final day of the NADD Convention in Chicago. Gather with other directors to share and learn about one of these three important issues in the diaconate:

What do we do about mentoring?

The Deacon as Parish Life Coordinator (C. 517.2)

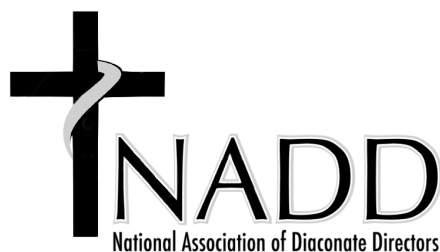
The Coordinator of Pastoral Field Education

What do we do about mentoring? will be facilitated by Deacon Sam Anzalone. Different approaches to mentoring aspirants and candidates in diocesan formation programs will be discussed by participants, along with an overview of *A Concise Guide to Supervising a Ministry Student*, recently published by Ave Maria Press. Ordained in 1987, Sam served on the Diaconate Board of the Archdiocese of Atlanta from 1987 to 1994 and has been Director of Diaconate Formation for the Diocese of Birmingham since 1997.

The Deacon as Parish Life Coordinator offers the opportunity to discuss one of today's most timely topics concerning the diaconate. With increasingly frequent application of

Canon 517.2, assigning deacons as parish life coordinators has implications concerning candidate formation along with the need to catechize laity about the theology of the diaconate and the sacramental presence that sets deacons apart through Holy Orders. Facilitator Deacon Gerald DuPont is the Director of Diaconal Formation for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston and an instructor of sacred scripture at the St. Mary's Seminary School of Theology in Houston.

The Coordinator of Pastoral Field Education interest session addresses *National Directory* section #219 which calls for "a wide diversity of pastoral field education placements...giving the candidate a greater awareness of the needs and mission of the (diocesan) Church." In this interest session, Deacon Tom Lang will present the practical experiences of bringing a formation class in a rural diocese through a year-long series of pastoral field education placements. Examples of contracts, timelines, reporting forms, and evaluations will be provided to make this session practical and adaptable for other dioceses. Ordained in 1982, Deacon Tom moved to Dubuque in 2000 becoming Director of the Permanent Diaconate.



NDICE Plans

July Conference

The 36th annual NDICE (National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education) conference will be held July 19 through July 22 on the campus of Xavier University in Cincinnati. This year's theme is "Scripture: The Foundation of Diaconia."

Participants will hear presentations from Cincinnati Coadjutor Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, Father Thomas Kalita, pastor of St. Peter's in Olney, MD, Bishop Octavio Cisneros, Scripture scholar Father Timothy Schehr, Green Bay Auxiliary Bishop Robert Moreau, Dr. John Pilch, Deacon William Ditewig, Dan Milseh and Bishop William S. Skylstad. Deacons and candidates alike will have time for discussion and relaxation. A copy of the 2009 schedule is included in this issue of *NADD News*. Please visit the NDICE website for more information or to register: www.ndice.org

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* New Board Member as of April 2009

Remembering John Pistone

By: Deacon William T. Ditewig

"Standing on the shoulders of giants." We've all heard this saying from the 12th Century, which acknowledges the humble truth that our present is owed to the contributions of those who go before us. On March 22 we lost a true giant, and a wonderful friend, Deacon John Pistone.

John was a pioneer and a leader without peer. Born and raised in Florida, John earned his BA from Florida State University, meeting Rae when he was doing a stint as a student teacher and she was still in high school. They would enjoy 52 years of marriage, sharing their love with their siblings, their daughters and countless friends and colleagues. Rae and John became world-renowned for directing more than 91 retreats for deacons and wives. When John was ordained in 1972 for the Archdiocese of Chicago, the diaconate was still brand new in the United States. Pope Paul VI had only implemented the decision of the Second Vatican Council to renew a permanent diaconate five years before, and the first ordinations to the diaconate in the United States had taken place less than three years before. When John began diaconate formation in Chicago, there were fewer than 100 deacons in the world; at the time of his death, there were more than 35,000 deacons worldwide, with more than 17,000 in the United States alone. John was to be an important leader in that extraordinary development.

Following a highly successful professional career as a manager for Allstate Insurance Company, John took on the position of Executive Director of the NADD when it was still located in Chicago. He provided leadership to the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE), and in 1996 he and Rae left their beloved Chicago when he succeeded Deacon Sam Taub as the Executive Director of the Secretariat for the Diaconate at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



John and Rae Pistone

in Washington, DC.

This is when I first got to know John well. When he came to Washington, I was serving as director of the diaconate for the Archdiocese of Washington, DC. Since our offices were so close to each other, we would meet frequently for lunch. Soon, we became associates in an endeavor that was to influence our lives for years to come: the preparation of a new national document on the formation, ministry and life of permanent deacons in the United States.

John coordinated all aspects of the Directory project: he helped identify the editorial team and directed all of our efforts. He brought a strong organizational skill to the task, but more important, he brought great sensitivity to the task and his own well-honed experience as deacon. Through it all, John was a steady, calming and diaconal presence.

In the Jewish tradition, to "remember" someone is to make that person really and truly present again in our lives; this is the source of our understanding of Jesus' command to "do this in memory of me." We now REMEMBER our brother and friend, John Pistone. And through remembering him, in this Jewish sense, John remains present to us and forever a part of our lives. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him!*