



NADD eLetter
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The Director's Workshop at the NADD National Conference in Chicago

What is the mission of the Church? What is your mission? What is the mission of the diaconate?

In the National Directory for the Ministry, Life and Formation of Permanent Deacons in the United States there are no less than 55 times when the deacon is described as a driving force of the Church's mission and a participant in the missionary dimension of the Church itself. Is this our lived experience of the diaconate today? When we look at the mission of the Church and the call of the Directory for the diaconate to be engaged in the mission, we encounter a profound need for all diaconate directors to have a strong foundation in the Mission of Christ.

When we stop and wrestle with mission, we are called to see all that we do and all that we are as a reflection of the deacon's participation in the Mission of Christ. In a recent book on the Mission of the Church by Reverend Roger Schroeder, SVD, Father Schroeder leads us to consider that the Church does not have a mission; but rather the Mission of Christ has a Church. *The basic mission of Christ and our call to be active ministers of Christ's mission is the heart of this year's Director's Workshop.*

The Director's Workshop at the 2009 NADD Conference in Chicago provides a unique opportunity to explore and reflect on the Mission of Christ with one of the Church's leading authorities on Missiology.

Reverend John M. Kaserow, M.M. will lead the director's workshop through the topic of "The Deacon and the Missionary Nature of the Church." Looking at the call for the diaconate to be an agent of mission, this workshop will proceed from the three basic concepts: Missio Dei (The Mission of God) and the Reign of God, the Pascal Mystery, and Evangelization. In the workshop Evangelization will be explored through a five-fold perspective: Witness, Human Development, Liturgy and Worship, Inter-Religious Dialogue and Proclamation.

"The deacon's ministry of service is linked with the missionary dimension of the Church: the missionary efforts of the deacon will embrace the ministry of the word, the liturgy, and works of charity which, in their turn, are carried into daily life. Mission includes witness to Christ in a secular profession or occupation."¹⁴ Further, "neither should the prospect of the mission ad gentes be lacking, wherever circumstances require and permit it."¹⁵ In its renewal the Order of Deacons is permanently restored as "a living icon of Christ the Servant within the Church."

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Permanent Deacons in the United
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