

NADD NEWS

SPRING, 2004

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CONVENTION 2004 – ARE YOU READY?

From the President By Alfred Mitchell

This is my last article as president of NADD. I thought I'd take the opportunity to share a few thoughts with you:

It has been a busy year. I recall saying to the board at our last meeting that I didn't realize how much work is involved in being president. It has been a busy year, but a pleasant kind of busyness that challenges and stimulates.

One of the big challenges, even before becoming president, was the selection of a replacement for Tom Welch and moving the office and getting that settled. The interview committee met at O'Hare Airport in March 2003. I was then president-elect. Other members of the committee were John Pistone, Fr. Ed Salmon and Tom Welch. The committee recommended Greg Urban. I think it was a good choice, especially, when you consider that Greg has helped us to move more into the electronic age. The board has been pleased with Greg's work over these past nine months. We look forward to even bigger things as he settles into the director's job.

Another sizeable challenge

is the study and possible revision of the by-laws and constitution. NADD has grown considerably since its inception. It was felt that our governing documents needed a good review to see if they are in sync with the organization we've become over the years. Sam Anzalone chairs that committee and will have a report for us at the convention.

I'd like to see us really get moving on the new director's institute. I anticipate that the institute will be a place where a director can come and really find out something about the director's job without having to resort to the old trial-and-error method. That's the way most of us learned our jobs. We have a vast array of talent within NADD. Tapping that resource should be one of the institute's major undertakings. That isn't to say the institute shouldn't use outside help also, rather, that we should give our membership an opportunity to display its collective talents. Dan Peterson chairs that committee and will have a preliminary report for the convention.

Speaking of in-house talent; I know all of you are busy, but if you have a talent that can be of use to the Association, step forward and let

us know what it is. You are all encouraged to write "white" papers on subjects that are pertinent to our jobs, to seek them from others, and to ferret out authors who are willing to do scholarly work on the Diaconate that is suitable for publication.

Please encourage your deacons and wives to attend the National Catholic Deacons' Conference in Baltimore in July. It is very important that we support this effort. This is a means of strengthening our collaboration with the Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate. It is also a wonderful opportunity for deacons to come together and share their many and varied experiences. NADD has donated \$1,000.00 to the NCDC to help with expenses. Six dioceses from my region, Region XIV, also donated \$500.00 each. If you can help I'm sure it isn't too late.

Keep us in mind in your wills. We will also accept memorials and gifts. Greg has opened an account for NADD memorial gifts. We have already received two donations from our treasurer, Math Prom. NADD has added \$300.00 as seed money for this memorial

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CONVENTION NOTES

Tours: Tuesday, April 20: The bus for the New York City tour will begin boarding at 7:00 a.m. and depart promptly at 7:30 p.m. Don't be late!

Saturday, April 24: The Philadelphia / Battleship New Jersey tour and the Philadelphia / Shrine tour will use the same bus. You may begin boarding the bus at 9:00 a.m. We will depart promptly at 9:30 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: ADDITION for Saturday tours: The bus will pick up the Philadelphia/Battleship Tour Group at 4:00 p.m. from historic Philadelphia. At that time you will re-join the Shrine Tour Group and attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Rita of Cascia. After Mass and a brief tour of St. Rita of Cascia, the bus will depart for New Jersey, with a stop at Old Country Buffet for dinner. The cost for dinner is \$10.00 per person. **This should be paid at the convention registration desk upon registering.**

PRIESTS MAY CONCELEBRATE at all Eucharistic Liturgies. Please remember to bring your stole and alb.

From the Secretary

Sister Grayce Ross

During the month of February, I was at my own community's SNJM CA Ministry meeting one weekend in Santa Cruz, CA, and then the very next weekend I was present at the Coeur d'Alene Deacon Formation class on "The Theology of Ministry." In both cases, Mary Garvin, SNJM, Professor of Religious Studies at Gonzaga University was the presenter.

As an introduction to the process of Theological Reflection, Mary asked our sisters gathered together as well as our diocesan deacon candidates at class to: "Reflect on a response, insight or experience from your involvement in ministry that evoked a significant response within you." Each time I thought of my involvement as Director of Deacon Formation in the Diocese of Boise. Yes, there were other experiences I could have chosen, but this particular one seemed to come to mind immediately in both settings.

I still remember very clearly the early morning call from the Bishop of Boise in 1994. He called me at home to say he wanted me to

apply for the position of Director of Deacon Formation. I remember my Jeremiah-like response: "Not me! I do not have the qualifications." The Bishop was quick to share with me the gifts and talents [qualifications] he thought I would bring to the ministry. After a short conversation during which I asked him to do a couple of things for me [like talk to a few pertinent individuals and groups about his idea!], I asked for some time for prayer and reflection about the matter. After he assured me that he had fulfilled his part of the agreement, I responded with my "I'll give it a try." What else could I say? Prayer, reflection, conversations with my spiritual director and others who knew me well, led to this YES! It was not the first time in my life that the Spirit calling forth the giftedness that is Grayce overwhelmed me.

Well, it has now been ten years since I said YES to the ministry of deacon formation! And I want you all to know; my YES has been sustained and blessed, in large part, to the great mentoring and support that I have found within the NADD organization. When I asked my Bishop if the diocese would support my membership in NADD his response was very positive. I had missed the convention in San Francisco, but I asked if I could go to the

NCDC meeting in New Orleans. Even before I arrived in New Orleans, Dcn. John Byrne, from Spokane and the then Region XII Representative, called to offer his support and sent me information about setting up a program. When at New Orleans, many welcomed me and promised not only their support in diaconal matters but also their prayers. The NADD office has always been there to listen. The networking among directors – terrific. I came away from New Orleans filled with the Spirit and eager to be the best Deacon Formation Director I possibly could be.

For me, the NADD's hope to establish a New Director's Institute, is just one more gift that the organization brings to newly appointed directors as well a gift to our church. Our organization has grown. The U.S. church has been blessed with many responding to God's call to service as a deacon. God calls not only the deacons, but also calls forth the giftedness of many to direct programs for the deacons. I have always been a believer in: "God will provide." I firmly believe that in this time and place, God is blessing us with this special opportunity to receive nourishment and training to be the best Deacon Director that we can possibly be!

From the President

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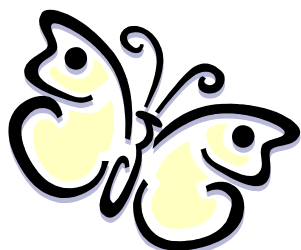
gift account. If you can make a contribution, or know of persons who may be willing to do so, by all means contact Greg.

I spoke with Bill Ditewig recently and he has assured me that the Wives' video will be available at the convention. It is a very professional and solid presentation. I encourage you to consider purchasing at least one copy. I used it recently in a session I had with new ordinands and their wives and it was very well received. We are working on trying to have the video set-up for showing at the convention.

Many of our attendees cannot be away from their parishes on Saturday and Sunday. So, in an effort to boost attendance at the closing liturgy and banquet they were moved to Friday night. This is an experiment and your comments are invited. Some have already made their views known.

Finally, pray for our bishops and priests as they continue to deal with the fallout from the sex-abuse scandal. This is a time of trial for our Church. It needs your support.

May this Lenten season be a time of renewal and conversion for you and may God continue to bless your efforts.



NADD CALENDAR

4/21/04 - 4/24/04	Convention 2004	Clarion Hotel & Conference Center Cherry Hill, NJ
4/20/04	Board/Convention Chair Mtg. Reps Arrive	
4/21/04	Board/Rep/Convention Chair Meetings	
4/25/04	Board/New Officers Meeting	
6/3/04 - 6/5/04	Board Meeting	Bishop Lane Retreat Center Rockford, IL
9/15/04 - 9/18/04	Board/Convention Chair/ Rep Meetings	The Bishop O'Connor Catholic Pastoral Center Madison, WI
1/20/05 - 1/23/05	Board/Convention Chair Meetings	Redemptorist Renewal Center at Picture Rocks Tucson, AZ
4/13/05 - 4/16/05	Convention 2005	Omni Royal Orleans New Orleans, LA
6/9/05 - 6/11/05	Board Meeting	St. Edmund's Enders Island - Mystic, CT
9/14/05 - 9/17/05	Board/Convention Chair/ Rep Meetings	Marycrest Retreat Center Denver, CO

Nomination for President-Elect

DEACON DAN PETERSON

Diocese of Phoenix



I am honored to have been nominated for the NADD office of president-elect and I readily accept for four straight forward reasons. These are: (1) a commitment to NADD, (2) a reading of the maturity of the diaconate, (3) a background in education, and (4) experience in diaconal leadership.

First of all, I believe strongly that the order of deacons is a fraternity which calls each of us to help build and bless our diaconate

community. I believe NADD, its board of directors and officers have a special opportunity to strengthen us collectively and individually. Plainly stated, I believe in NADD as an outstanding professional organization and a distinctive council of diaconal leaders. I, therefore, welcome the challenge to help build diaconal community through NADD.

Second, my sense is that the diaconate in America has matured to a level which has seen the leadership of the order fall directly on deacons themselves. For good reasons, the first directors of deacon programs were largely priests who served us exceedingly well. We are still blessed with directors who are priests, and hopefully they will be numbered among us for many years to come. However, what has happened in recent years is that deacons themselves have been entrusted by their bishops with the leadership of their order. It is interesting to note, that this *call-to-lead* has spread beyond the diaconate office to almost every department in the chancery as well as to nearly every leadership position in the parish. One sign of a maturing vocation is the extent to which its members are responsible for their own growth,

development, and governance. The increasing numbers of deacons in executive positions of leadership is a marked sign of this maturity. I believe NADD officers have a special opportunity to foster that leadership. I am eager to be among those who respond to the call to serve the order of deacons through the responsibilities of leadership

Third, I have been a teacher my entire professional life. I believe that my experience as a high school teacher and college professor could well serve NADD and the community of deacons. NADD, in my view, has a critical role in the formation and training of directors of diaconate programs. I was the chairman of the NADD National Convention held in Phoenix and was the recipient of the prestigious Bart O'Leary Award for leadership. My viewpoint is that one key element of NADD's mission is to serve as a resource center of teaching excellence for those who lead. I applaud, and am anxious to support the efforts of our organization to publish scholarly literature as well as practical hands-on materials. In addition, I would like to help support excellence in annual conventions, a separate, stand-alone institute for new directors, and other appropriate seminars and academies.

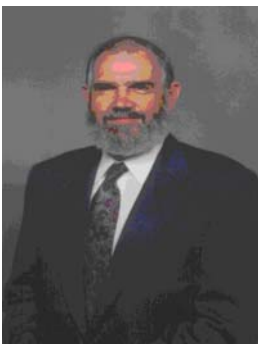
Fourth, I have served in the Office of the Diaconate for seven years in various capacities and I am presently the Director in the Diocese of Phoenix. I was chairman of the 2001 NADD Convention and I have been an instructor in the New Directors' workshops. I am very supportive of regional activities and I am the current representative for Region 13. It is my conviction that experiences such as these in some important ways prepare one to help carry on the rich traditions of service which characterize NADD.

To briefly summarize, I believe it is an honor to serve as a NADD Officer and that the diaconate is at a level of maturity that calls deacons to accept important leadership roles. Because experience in education and diaconal leadership help suit one for such pivotal responsibilities as the office of president-elect, I am pleased to be among those so nominated.

Nomination for Treasurer

DEACON MATHIAS PROM

Diocese of Fargo



I have been blessed to have served on the Executive Board for two years, and have gotten to know many holy and dedicated men and women who serve as directors. I am in awe of the great work they have accomplished and am grateful for the dedication they have shown in their various ministries.

The NADD has come a long way since it was first organized. There is much that can and should be done to equip and enable the Deacon Directors to carry out their ministries. Some areas that I see as being helpful are:

1. Implementation of the new Directory.
2. Initiation of an Institute for new directors, but also for those deacons who believe they need additional skills to fulfill their

calling.

3. Publication of books and articles that will help directors with continuing education.
4. To reach the poorest of the poor, we need to send servant leaders to third world countries.

I offer my services to the NADD because I believe I can give the needed time to this ministry and also because I believe I have been given gifts that match this type of service.

I grew up on a farm in North Dakota and farmed until 1958 when I went to college. I began working in construction in May 1959 and worked up to become a foreman, then superintendent, and eventually became an owner of the concrete construction business. The business was sold in 1997. Lynn and I have been married since June 29, 1974.

I was appointed Deacon Director for the Diocese of Fargo in September 1987 and ordained a deacon on December 29, 1987. I was appointed Director of Life and Ministry in July, 2003.

I joined the National Guard and served for twenty years, retiring as Captain. I have served as Treasurer of NADD since April of 2000.

The National Association of Diaconate Directors

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2004-05
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers to be elected at Convention 2004
will be:

President-Elect for 2004-05
and
Treasurer for 2004-06

Voting by Proxy

Policy/Procedure Manual Article I—Elections Item H., “if a diocese holds a full membership in the Association and no full member from that diocese is present at a meeting of the Association, one proxy vote from the diocese is permitted. A full member from another diocese may be delegated by name to cast the proxy vote. A letter of delegation is to be sent to the Executive Director by the full member who is to be absent indicating who will be casting the proxy vote. The delegated member must be present at the meeting to cast a proxy vote.”

If you wish to exercise your vote by proxy, please return the form enclosed no later than April 14, 2004.

We're On the Web!
www.nadd.cc



Update from the Secretariat for the Diaconate

By Deacon William T. Ditewig

In this article I want to focus on the various publications being released, since many of them are things that you may find useful in your own diocesan programs.

At the NADD Convention, you will see the new 17-minute video on the wives of deacons entitled “Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives.” This video was produced at the suggestion of the wives’ advisors to the Bishops’ Committee on the Diaconate, and the production was funded by a grant from the Catholic Communications Campaign. The video features interviews with six wives who share their thoughts on formation, family and the influence of diaconate on their lives. Copies will be available for purchase.

The intense initiative in support of the diaconate by Paulist Press has begun. In March, Owen Cummings’ book *Deacons and the Church* was released, and Owen – one of your keynote speakers at Cherry Hill – will be signing copies at the Convention. Another Paulist publication, *101 Questions and Answers on Deacons* will be available in May or June; this book is part of the well-known “101 Questions and Answers” series by Paulist. More long-term projects from Paulist include a *Source Book for Diaconate Formation*, which will provide extended commentary and application of the principles contained in the *National Directory*, and a *Diaconal Reader*, which will contain scholarly articles on a wide variety of topics that might be used as part of the academic dimension of diaconate formation itself. In short, the *Source Book* will assist in developing the context of formation, and the *Reader* will help provide content for the formation itself. Additional books from Paulist on the diaconate include *Deacon Saints*, and *What Are They Saying About Deacons?* As of this writing, no publication dates have been announced on these texts, but Paulist hopes to have the *Source Book* and the *Reader* available as soon as possible after the *National Directory* is promulgated so that they may be used in tandem. There is still one more Paulist project that is of considerable historical import. As most of you know, the most prominent theologian to support the possibility of a renewed diaconate following World War II and leading up to

the decisions made at the Second Vatican Council was Karl Rahner. He wrote extensively on the diaconate, and in 1962, he and Professor Herbert Vorgrimler edited a 645-page text entitled *Diakonia in Christo: Über Die Erneuerung des Diakonates*. For many of the bishops at the Council, this was a significant resource that informed their own learning about the diaconate. Only five of the 39 articles in the book have ever been translated into English – until now. Paulist intends to publish the first English-language edition of the book, with a new Foreward by Professor Joseph A. Komonchak of the Catholic University of America, and possibly with a new concluding “epilogue” by Professor Vorgrimler. This project will fill a considerable void in the English language literature on the diaconate and its renewal.

Two liturgical texts are also in the works. The USCCB Secretariat for the Liturgy, in collaboration with the Secretariat for the Diaconate, is producing a successor text to the venerable *Study Text VI: The Deacon as Minister of Word and Sacrament*. This will, of course, serve as an “official” guide. Liturgical Training Publications (LTP) is working on a related text, tentatively titled *The Deacon and the Liturgy of the Roman Rite*. The manuscripts for both of these texts are nearing completion and should be published before the end of the year.

Of course, the book we’re all waiting for with baited breath is the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*. As of this writing there has been no communication from the Holy See, although it does take time for a document of such substance to make the rounds of eight dicasteries! Bishop Gregory is returning to Rome this month (April) for a scheduled meeting with the curia, and this is on his agenda. As soon as I receive any indication whatsoever, I will immediately communicate it to all of you by the most expeditious means possible.

So, I hope you will all clear some space on your bookshelves for these exciting projects designed to improve the national catechesis on the diaconate!

He is Risen..
Alleluia...Alleluia

