

# NADD NEWS

SUMMER, 2004

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## KEYNOTES HIGHLIGHT CONVENTION

For many, the highlight of Convention 2004 proved to be the keynote addresses on the topic: "Theology of the Diaconate — State of the Question" by Deacon William Ditewig and Mr. Richard Gaillardetz. Although Deacon Owen Cummings was unable to attend because of a serious illness, his paper was presented by Deacon Bill Ditewig. The majority of the evaluation scores for the keynote presentations were rated very good to excellent.

Seventy-five percent of those completing the evaluations agreed that the new format of having the banquet on Friday evening instead of Saturday evening was a positive change in the format. The Executive Board has reviewed all the evaluations and comments. These remarks will be taken into consideration in planning future conventions.



Installation of Officers Ceremony L-R: Deacon Dan Peterson, Newly Elected President-Elect; Deacon Mathias Prom, Treasurer; Sr. Grayce Ross, Secretary; Deacon Tim McAuliffe President; Deacon Anthony Casaneto, 2003 Past President; Bishop Howard Hubbard, Diocese of Albany and Deacon Alfred Mitchell, 2004 Past President

**ELECTIONS:** Deacon Dan Peterson, Archdiocese of Phoenix was elected to the Office of President-Elect. Deacon Math Prom, Diocese of Fargo, was re-elected to the Office of Treasurer. *Cont'd on page 3*

### From the President

Deacon Timothy J. McAuliffe



"Mom said you're now president of the Deacon Directors", our 34 year old son said to me last year. I answered "yes, it's a three year stint; one year as understudy, one year as president, and the final year as past president." "You know", my son said - he's a New York State Police Investigator like his father was for 36 years — "retired cops don't have a big retirement, and I'll bet the job of president, like deacon, won't help your current or retirement income."

Of course I couldn't leave that alone so I replied, "but I'm not going to get guns or cars aimed at me either." I went on, "Speaking of which, do you know how many officers, troopers, deputies, and agents get killed each year? Look at your salary, and your retirement. I only have to see where we may help a few hundred deacon directors lead fourteen thousand Canadian and U.S. deacons. I've got an executive board with me at NADD along with a 'senate' of the 14 regional representatives whom we count on for advice and consent." "And they're not paid for all their work either, are they," he parried.

The ribbing and quipping will continue. Daughters and sons say aloud questions people ask about deacons; wives of deacons, deacon staff, and other deacon people. We're certainly not in it for the money and retirement benefits. Those who do receive a salary could do better any place else. When we ask ourselves why we take on these jobs, this ministry, there are different answers on different days. It's certainly not because it's a job and "somebody has got to do it." *Cont'd on page 3*

### From the Exec. Director Deacon Greg Urban

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend our recent convention in Cherry Hill. The printed proceedings are included with this newsletter. For those of you who were unable to attend, we have videos (VHS & DVD) and audio (CDs) of the keynote talks as well as VHS tapes of each workshop available. Visit the web site or call Judy or me in the office to order.

Also, mark your calendars now to attend our next convention to be held in New Orleans on April 13-16, 2005. Our hosts, the Archdiocese of New Orleans, with Chair, Jim Swiler and his committees, promise us a productive gathering and a great time. Plans include having two major threads — Restorative Justice and Implementation Issues of the (newly released, we hope!) National Directory. Keynotes are being planned in both these important areas with time for community dialog. The banquet will be on Friday evening, as last year, and we are planning workshops and other activities on Saturday for those who are able to stay.

## From the President-Elect

Deacon Daniel L. Peterson, Ph.D.



### A Vision for NADD

#### An Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ

I was asked as president-elect to address this article to a shared vision for NADD. Such vision must unfold within the vision of our Church and within the vision of our bishops. In my view, this wisdom is found in John Paul II's apostolic exhortation, *The Church in America* with the beautiful subtitle of:

*On the Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ:  
The Way to Conversion, Communion,  
And Solidarity in America*

In this brief article, I will introduce the three paths to conversion, communion, and solidarity and reflect on several implications to a vision for NADD.

Not only are deacons and those we serve called to this encounter with the Living Jesus Christ as individual persons, but we are also called as organizations, communities, and as brothers in a sacred fraternity. I have found this remarkable document to be a treasure map for NADD that holds the promise of a clear pathway to conversion, communion, and solidarity.

The path to **conversion** for NADD is shone in darkness by the light of the Gospel and is incomplete without a social dimension. If there is anything over the past four decades that has kept pace with the incredible rate of change in technology, communications, and globalization in modern secular life, it is the spiraling level of human need in a world marked by poverty, illiteracy, disregard for the dignity of life, and oppression. Our Holy Father, John Paul, writes, "Fraternal charity means attending to all the needs of our neighbor. 'If any one ... sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?'" (#27; 1 Jn 3-17). "Conversion (*metanoia*), to which every person (and organization) is called, leads to an acceptance and appropriation of the new vision which the Gospel provides." (#32)

The path to **communion** for NADD is found in God the Father; the Son and Holy Spirit and that we as a fraternal community are

called to share in this Trinitarian communion. "We must proclaim that this communion is the magnificent plan of God the Father; that Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Lord, is the heart of this communion, and the Holy Spirit works ceaselessly to create communion and to restore it when it is broken." (#33). For serious pastoral and theological reasons, the second Vatican Council decided to restore the diaconate as a permanent element of the hierarchy of the Church. Although the experience in the United States has varied widely, many dioceses have seen with joy how deacons "sustained by the Sacrament, in the ministry (*diakonia*) of Liturgy, of the word and of charity are in the service of the People of God, in communion with the Bishop and his priests." How are we part of this communion as an association? Well, NADD is a community of leaders, within the fraternal order of deacons, within the hierarchy of the Church, in communion with our Bishops. This may seem rudimentary and self-apparent, but the implications are far from simple and obvious. This principle calls us to follow a path of communion among ourselves; among those we lead, among those in whose name we serve, and among those we serve. Not only do the members of NADD gather as directors in support of one another, but they also come together to be better able to serve their Bishop, his priests, his deacons, and the faithful he shepherds. During their ordination to Holy Orders, deacons and priests alike, kneeling before their Bishop are asked, "Do you promise respect and obedience to me and my successors? The candidate promises, "I do." This is not simply a promise to our Bishop; it is a sacred encounter with Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a Eucharistic commitment to unity, community, and service. This is at the heart of a sacred bond of obedience and respect that helps shape us as children of God called to holiness, as servants in our dioceses and to the world, and as community leaders. For this reason, in the Diocese of Phoenix, we speak of deacons as Holy, Servant-Leaders. As NADD looks to the future, its leadership must be grounded in this notion of holy, servant leadership.

The path to **solidarity** is this fruit of communion. "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it unto me" (Mt 25:40) "The awareness of communion with Christ and with our brothers and sisters, for its part the fruit of conversion, leads to the service of our neighbors in all their needs, material and spiritual, since the face of Christ shines forth in every human being" (#52). As an association, this means that in a world gripped by relativism,

individualism, and subjectivism, we are called to proclaim with renewed vigor that conversion consists in commitment to the person of Jesus Christ with all the theological and moral implications taught by the Magisterium of the Church. As deacons, and peer leaders of deacons, we have a pivotal obligation to be conversant with, and a herald of, the social teachings of Mother Church. Our Holy Father writes, "It is appropriate to recall that the foundation on which all human rights rest is the dignity of the human person" (#57). He adds, "The Church in America must incarnate in her pastoral initiative the solidarity of the universal Church towards the poor and the outcasts of every kind. ....The goal of the Church is to ensure that no one is marginalized" (#58). Here he is thinking of unborn children, helpless victims of abortion, the elderly and incurably ill, and unnecessary recourse to the death penalty, racial discrimination, and mistreatment of immigrants. As a community of leaders on the path of solidarity, NADD is called to hold to these values in its publications, workshops, conventions and projects.

I believe as peer leaders of deacons, we can be better served if we are supported by a dynamic organization such as the National Association of Diaconate Directors, which is grounded and energized by a clear vision. I believe the *Church in America* offers such a wide view. Using this gift, we can judge our mission, evaluate our objectives and assess our activities by the extent to which they foster an encounter with the living Jesus Christ which place us on the footpath of conversion, communion, and solidarity.

John Paul II, *The Church in American. Ecclesia in America. On the Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ: The Way to Conversion, Communion, and Solidarity in America. Post-Synodal. Apostolic Exhortation. United States Catholic Conference, Washington, D. C. February 1999.*



### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**Invoices for membership renewal have been mailed. Please remember to return a copy of the invoice with your payment and make necessary corrections to the information listed. The new directory of members will be compiled from this information.**

**Thank you for your prompt response!**

## From the President

Deacon Timothy J. McAuliffe  
*Cont'd from page 1*

When I wonder about why I say yes each day to being a deacon, there are many moments of my journey of faith that easily come to mind. I recall what my Mom said on ordination day in 1983. My Mom said she thought when I was a boy a pilot light was always on under my temper even if she saw it only once or twice. My Mom went on to say that day: "I was afraid you might try and get even if someone did anything to you or especially your three younger brothers." I laughed at that and said, "No one has seen my temper, Mom." Mom went on to say, "I've not seen your temper in a long time – I am not concerned about that anymore. I'm telling you, none of us can get even with God, and none of us can repay God." My Mom is now 88 and still participates in daily Mass. My Mom's valedictory admonition on that important day reminds me of how significant are our roots. We need to keep in touch with all aspects of our brain; memory, emotions, and our own history. Who better than the family who nurtured who we are, to ground us in the reality of who we are.

I also know our daily examen of our activities, intentions, and attitudes may use different prisms. I pray that my eyes see not just with 20/20, but the 20/10 eyes that are supposed be looking for opportunities to present Jesus. Even when my aural acuity deteriorates with age I want to be a good listener. My heart must be like the heart of Jesus. I also pray that I always strive to convey hospitality, forgiveness, sincerity, concern, and patience towards everyone, starting with myself.

As we forge ahead together through this year I look forward to maintaining good eyesight, good listening skills, and working in communion with every deacon and each deacon person and all those who are concerned with living and preaching and practicing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I hope you often hear me and every other deacon say we must love our priests and bishops. I have always considered that principle as a prime mark of a call to diaconate. I'm in awe of the support and regard our brothers and sisters in the pew have for us who minister in the name of

Jesus. Their patience of us is worthy of an accolade. When I am privileged to break open the word, I know my efforts resonate in their hearts and minds because they love Jesus as much and more than me.

Our job as deacon and the job of those responsible for the selection and forming of deacons is to try and make us see the peace of Jesus as a possibility we can make real in our lives and the lives of others.

My first NADD convention was in 1987. I was excited about that one. Each Convention I have participated in has been a blessing for me. I am excited about next year's in New Orleans where Jim Swiler is our host. Al Sandoval will welcome us to Denver for NADD Convention 2006. The topics we will cover have been laid out and will be meat we can bring back to our dioceses so we can provide protein and not just white bread to the Body of Christ through the clergy and all the people we serve.

We are looking forward to Rome rolling out the new Directory for the Formation, and Life and Ministry of Deacons. I am proud of the work the bishops and deacons have performed and the guidance Rome gives it. The prototype of the NADD Directors' Institute will have a trial run for part of the 2005 Convention. The Institute holds great potential. We are blessed in having Deacon Dan Peterson of Phoenix as our captain in this endeavor.

There is a pantheon of names of people who have brought NADD to where we are today. I pray their wisdom and spirit, and in some cases their presence is still part of us. I enjoyed hearing one priest I visited with last year say that he realized afterwards how many good people he encountered during his years with NADD. May the spirit and work of O'Leary, Salmon, Healy, Mitchell, Santello, Cassaneto, Wilson and all the rest of this good company be forever with NADD. I am privileged to minister with you. Let us always pray for one another that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ and our calling.

God Bless.



## Convention

*Cont'd from page 1*

### AWARDS:

Convention 2004 award recipients are as follows:



**The William Philbin Award:** The Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard, D.D., Diocese of Albany.

**The Bart O'Leary Award:** Deacon Enrique Alonso, Archdiocese of Chicago; Deacon Frank Lukovits, Diocese of Albany;

Deacon George Miller, Archdiocese of St. Louis; Deacon Thomas C. Welch, Diocese of Rockford.

**NADD Recognition:** Deacon Mathias Prom, Diocese of Fargo and Deacon Anthony Cassaneto, Archdiocese of New York for their service on the Executive Board.

**NADD Special:** Timothy Charek, Archdiocese of Milwaukee; Rev. Robert Lalaberte, Diocese of Fargo; Sr. Clare O'Keefe, SCH, Archdiocese of Boston, and Deacon Sam Anzalone, Diocese of Birmingham.

**NADD Special:** For their contribution in the development of the National Directory. Special Awards were presented to: Timothy Charek, Archdiocese of Milwaukee; Deacon William Ditewig, Ph.D., Secretariat for the Diaconate, USCCB; Deacon Stephen Graff, Diocese of Syracuse; Ann Healey, Ph.D., Diocese of Fort Worth; Monsignor Theodore Kraus, Diocese of Oakland; Deacon John Pistone, Archdiocese of Chicago, and Deacon Jim Swiler, Archdiocese of New Orleans.

The National Association of Diaconate Directors

2136 12th Street - Suite 105  
Rockford, IL 61104  
PH: 815-965-2100  
FAX: 815-965-1569

**NOMINATION OF  
PRESIDENT-ELECT AND  
SECRETARY  
2005-06**

We encourage prayerful consideration of nominating a member, and/or accepting a nomination to an NADD office. A nomination form is enclosed with this newsletter for the offices of President-Elect and Secretary.

The nomination form can also be downloaded from the Member's Only section of our website as noted below.

Nominations Chair is:  
Deacon Robert McCoy  
2706 N. Gaines St.  
Davenport, IA 52804  
563-324-8289 (W)  
563-324-5842 (FAX)  
mccoy@davenportdiocese.org



**Mission Creep?**  
by Deacon Leo Donoghue  
Director, Archdiocese of Boston  
Used with Permission

In the decade of the 1990s the term mission creep became a buzzword. Perhaps you first heard the term "mission creep" used in relation to military actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although never adequately defined, a description of this phrase might be that mission creep happens when the requirements and tasks of an initial military action or mission grow or creep beyond what was originally planned. Some critics of the diaconate have suggested that deacons have assumed roles in the parish that are much different from the responsibilities of the first deacons. Can this be considered a form of mission creep?

Recall, if you will, what occasioned the need for deacons in scripture. In the midst of the new Christian communities were Greek-speaking widows. These women were marginalized most likely because they were both widows and members of a culture different from the Hebrews. It is very clear that the first deacons were chosen to remedy the community's negligence of these women and their children. Thus, it is appropriate to say that the deacon's mission was ministering to those who were neglected, those who were

outcasts, or those who were overlooked.

In 2004, it seems that only a small percentage of deacons in the United States report their primary mission as caring for outcasts. Most deacons are working in parishes and plugging gaps created by a declining priesthood. Is this mission creep? If so, what can be done about it?

I would like to suggest that the emerging role of the deacon in his parish is more the work of the Holy Spirit than the result of some intended or unintended process of mission creep. No matter where the deacon is assigned or to what role he is assigned, he can still be an advocate for those who are neglected or considered outcasts. He can still help his parish see the invisible poor, notice the neglected, and attend to those passed over by society and the church. In his preaching in his RCIA responsibilities, in his training of liturgical ministers, religious education work, and even in the decisions made by the parish council, the deacon can still be the one to raise the questions "Who is not at the Eucharistic table with us? Why are they not?" The mission of the deacon has not changed!

| NADD CALENDAR     |                                      |  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 9/15/04 - 9/18/04 | Board/Convention Chair/ Rep Meetings | The Bishop O'Connor Catholic Pastoral Center Madison, WI |
| 1/13/05 - 1/15/05 | 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                      |
| 4/19/06- 4/22/06  | Convention 2006                      | Hyatt Regency Tech Center Denver, CO                     |



NADD WEB SITE  
WWW.NADD.CC

ACCESS CODE TO  
MEMBER'S ONLY SECTION:

User Name: member  
Password: nadd