

NADD NEWS

WINTER, 2007

California, here we come!

Celebrating the excitement and diversity of Southern California, NADD members and guests will head to Los Angeles in April for their 2007 convention.

The convention will be centered at the beautiful Omni Hotel located in California Plaza, which is a part a revitalized downtown Los Angeles and within a complex of restaurants and shops. The hotel is only two blocks from the new Cathedral of Our Lady Queen of the Angels where Eucharistic Liturgies will be celebrated.

Keynote speakers will focus on the convention theme, *Many Faces in God's House*. Professor and author Sister Dianne Bergant, CSA, will present *All Nations Shall Stream to It*; JustFaith founder Jack Jezreel will offer *Were Not Our Hearts Burning Within Us?*; and Bishop Gerald Barnes will speak on the USCCB's efforts on the behalf of migrant people.

Many helpful workshops will be offered that were chosen based on surveying NADD members about their interests and needs.

Workshop topics include post-ordination formation, healthy marriages for deacons and wives, deacons as parish life directors, and responding to world poverty.



An innovation to NADD conventions will be Saturday morning interest groups where convention participants will gather in four separate groups to discuss their common interest in formation, the aging diaconate, evaluation of deacons and ongoing formation.

Opportunities to experience the historic and cultural venues of Southern California will be offered with organized tours planned to Mission San Juan Capistrano, a National Historic Treasure; and The J. Paul Getty Museum with

its spectacular collection of Western art from the Middle Ages to the present. Olvera Street, where Los Angeles began, is within walking distance of the Omni Hotel, plus Universal Studios can be easily reached via the Red Line, the city's sparkling rapid rail system.

As an added attraction, convention participants will be able to attend a private presentation of the popular *Late Nite Catechism*, where they will become part of the most hilarious and enjoyable adult catechism class ever attended.

Also within walking distance of the Omni Hotel is Angel's Flight, the Los Angeles Museum of Modern Art, the Los Angeles Music Center, and the Disney Concert Hall.

Registration materials are included with this mailing. I encourage you to make your reservations, especially hotel reservations, soon. And if you plan to arrive early or stay in Los Angeles beyond the conference dates, the Omni hotel has offered us the convention rate from three days before to three days after the convention, based upon availability.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Convention 2007 | 1 |
| New Directors' Institute | 2 |
| Emerging Models Symposia | 3 |
| From the Chairman | 3 |
| | |
| | |
| | |



Olvera Street

If you plan to take advantage of this, I urge you to contact the hotel as soon as possible.

You can register to attend the convention by mail or via the NADD web site. Look also to the NADD web site for last minute updates.

See you in LA!

Deacon Frank Chavez
2007 Convention Chair

New Directors' Institute Ready to Roll

Deacon Dan Peterson

Graduate credit, a Director's Certificate, a world class faculty, a pontifical college, on-site and distance learning, mentoring, and a rich curriculum that balances theoretical and the practical are just a few of the features of the institute for directors which will be launched on April 18, 2007 at the NADD Convention in Los Angeles. "The Director's Institute is a year long journey that will begin during our annual convention of 2007 and will conclude on April 20, at our annual convention of 2008 in Orlando. But the heart of the institute is the immersion week the participants will spend at Pontifical College Josephinum (PCJ)" according to steering committee member Joe Michalak. This week will begin Sunday evening, June 10, and end on Thursday evening, June 14.

"I am really excited about the institute" said Deacon Ken Piechowski, another committee member and Deacon Director for the Diocese of Cleveland. According to Deacon Ken, "This is one of the finest and most significant initiatives NADD has ever undertaken."

Deacon Michael Ross, Academic Dean at PCJ confirmed that participants may apply for graduate credit since the faculty meets accreditation standards. In addition, all participants who satisfy the requirements of the institute will be granted a Director's Institute Certificate issued jointly by NADD, PCJ, the Secretariat for the Diaconate, USCCB.

"The National Directory of the Formation, Ministry and Life of the Permanent Deacon" will be the BIBLE for the institute," according to Deacon Dan Peterson, chair of the committee. "The directory was written by and for bishops, and deacon directors are the individuals charged with putting into practice. This means the directory will provide the foundation of the curriculum and instruction of the institute," Deacon Dan added.

"The Institute needs to be practical and hands-on." According to Deacon Bill Ditewig, Executive Director of the Secretariat for the Diaconate. In consultation with graduate faculty, scholars, directors of formation, and directors of deacon personnel, the committee has planned a curriculum which has an integrated practicum and case study method which focuses on application and a "how to" methodology. In addition, the curriculum will be organized around the stages of formation beginning with aspirancy through candidacy to post-ordination.

The institute will have a distance education component beginning in June of 2007 and continuing to April, 2008. "The participants will be able network among themselves, with the faculty, with their mentors, and will have the resources of NADD at their ready disposal" according to Deacon Greg Urban, Executive Director of NADD.

Additional information on the Institute is included with this mailing and is available on the NADD web site. If you have questions, call Deacon Greg at 815-965-2100 or email at exec@nadd.org.

An Emerging Model

Deacon Greg Urban

As I write this I am sitting in my room at the Vallombroso Center in San Mateo, CA representing NADD at one of the two symposia funded by the Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project (EMP) entitled "Parish Life Coordinator/Sacramental Minister Symposia." These two particular symposia, co-sponsored by NFPC, NADD and NALM, are welcoming pastors, PLCs (of all titles - deacons, religious and lay), and responsible diocesan administrators of parishes.

In this time of growing priest shortages within many U.S. dioceses, it is interesting to see how our bishops are deploying resources to cope. Parish consolidation, multi-parish pastoring and the use of PLAs (Pastoral Life Administrators) and PLCs (Canon 517.2, Pastoral Life Coordinators) are being utilized. Are there different new models? How are these existing models working? These are just a few questions these two symposia will address.

There is also what seems to be a growing trend among bishops to prefer assigning permanent deacons to these parish leadership roles. Should permanent deacons serve

in this role? Should directors be forming new diaconal ordinands to serve in this manner? Through our participation in these symposia we hope to get a handle and publish information on these and maybe other innovative trends that bishops are using to cope with the growing priest shortage. It is exciting to be part of this investigative process.

In this issue of the newsletter we have included information and registration materials for Los Angeles Convention 2007 and detailed information on the 2007/2008 New Directors' Institute which begins the day before the convention. I hope you will attend the convention, the Spouses' Workshop and the Directors' Workshop as opportunities to network with and learn from your fellow directors from around North America. This is an exciting time for our Church and for the permanent diaconate and this requires more than ever that we keep abreast of the new developments and successful methods.

Chairman Anzalone outlined in his article the priorities your Board and national office have been working on and I am pleased to say we are making progress in all areas. Judy and I wish you a blessed and Happy New Year!

Looking Ahead

Deacon Sam Anzalone, Chairman

“We shall be blessed with clear vision if we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, for he, as Paul teaches, is our head, and there is in him no shadow of evil. Saint Paul himself and all who have reached the same heights of sanctity had their eyes fixed on Christ, and so have all who live and move and have their being in him.” (Gregory of Nyssa: *Homily on Ecclesiastes*)

As you read this we have entered the ordinary time of the Church’s liturgical year. Such a time, we know, “is not very ordinary at all,” but rather the “fabric of Christian living” produced by the daily exercise of life in Christ (*Ordo*, p. 30). In living out this diaconal ministry to which we have been called, we are reminded that it is in the ordinary exercise of expressing love of God and of neighbor that we remain “fixed on Christ” today and in all days ahead.

In entering this new year, our association continues to rely on the wise legacy from our past, the accumulation of current experience, and the anticipated blessings of our future together. Today marks yet another progressive step in our preparations for meeting again as we have done so annually for three decades.

In emerging from our convention in Denver last year we began to formulate a set of priorities to help guide the work of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and our staff. These were endorsed at the first meeting of the Board of Directors last September and remain a viable template for NADD’s direction.

Effectively implement the association’s new constitution and by-laws

Maintain the association’s financial integrity

Improve communications within and beyond the association membership

Actualize a successful national convention in Los Angeles

Completely inaugurate the association’s New Directors’ Institute plan

The months since last April have provided a remarkable lived experience of our new Constitution and By-laws. As a Board of Directors we have more to learn as we explore and refine both opportunities and actions that will move us, with God’s grace, to improved outcomes of working together in a new way. Indeed, changes to this

new Constitution and the By-laws are being formally proposed for your consideration and will be shared well in advance of our April convention.

NADD’s financial integrity is omnipresent in our deliberations. The daily management of association resources is in capable hands and longer-range guidance is being provided. A full financial report, reflecting both Executive Committee and Board of Directors consideration of several recommendations emanating from the membership will be presented at the next business meeting. Our present condition is sound. Future budgetary perspectives will be an agenda topic at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

The continuing improvement of communications within the association and with entities important to NADD’s mission requires continuing attention. Direct communication between the Chairman and the Board of

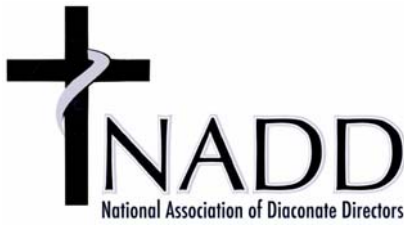
Directors is expanding. Our association’s defining relationship with the Bishops’ Committee on the Diaconate, especially during this period of reorganization within the USCCB, necessitates more frequent contact, and that is occurring. NADD’s relationship with partners in the Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project continues to be enlightening, as does those with a number of deacon organizations. Much energy is being directed toward solidifying our growing relations with the

Pontifical College Josephinum, particularly focused on the New Directors’ Institute and the potential for cooperation in the sphere of post-ordination teaching, research, and service.

Our association’s annual conventions have always been elevated occasions for fellowship and learning. The NADD 2007 convention in Los Angeles, “Many Faces in God’s House,” is destined for that level. We know there is much discussion among directors about the sharply increased diversity among aspirants and candidates and cultural differences within both the diaconate and the priesthood. The need to address cultural differences is a reality outlined specifically in the new *National Directory*: “Deacons, as ministers of Christ the Servant, shall be prepared to link people of diverse languages and cultures into the local faith community of the diocese and parish” (#251; see also *Multicultural Sensitivities*, p. 176). A recent article by Deacon John Pistone (*Deacon Digest*, Jan-Feb 2007, pp. 27-28) is a reminder of the need in the Church for a “deeper awareness and understanding between the ego-centric and socio-centric cultures” we are confronting in our respective environments. Details of our 2007 convention program can be viewed on the NADD website and in the

Cont’d on page 4





**The National Association of
Diaconate Directors**

2136 12th Street - Suite 105
Rockford, IL 61104
Ph: 815-965-2100
Fax: 815-965-1569
Email: naddinfo@nadd.org



**Hold onto your
song books!
The interactive,
Off-Broadway
show is
coming to
NADD**



"Late Nite Catechism" is a one-woman play featuring an outlandish nun who is guaranteed to have you laughing out loud in no time.

Tickets will sell out fast!
Order your tickets NOW
and guarantee your seat
in Sister's class.

**See it at the convention
Thursday, April 19 - 7:00 P.M.**

Looking Ahead

Cont'd from page 3

registration brochure. We are urging early registration by all who are planning to participate.

An article regarding the considerable work of the New Directors' Institute committee is elsewhere in this newsletter. The growing relationship between NADD and the Pontifical College Josephinum can be primarily credited to the dedication and persistence of the committee and the support of Bishop Frederick F.

Campbell, the BCD chairman. The inaugural cycle of the New Directors' Institute commences at the Los Angeles convention, incorporates this June's classes at the Josephinum, and concludes at our 2008 convention. Our vision for the Institute is that it will eventually mature into the normative learning opportunity to which every bishop will insist on enrolling new and/or anticipated diocesan diaconate directors and teams.

As we continue to strengthen our capability of delivering timely and cogent information about best practices

information, ministry, and life of permanent deacons within our convention and by other means, a national survey by NADD is underway to collect details of the assessment and evaluation realities being implemented during the pre-ordination program cycle. The survey questionnaire was mailed to directors in approximately 180 arch/dioceses on December 15th with a requested return deadline of January 31st. Your participation is urged so that the results can be analyzed and utilized in the Directors' Workshop to be held on April 18th in Los Angeles.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be in Los Angeles on April 17th. We trust any matter you desire to bring to the attention of the Board will be transmitted via your Regional Representative or directly to the officers and staff of our association.

Your work is meaningful to the Church in every imaginable way. During these weeks of Ordinary Time may our devotion to the mystery of Christ in all its fullness be sustained by God's grace and guidance to those called to the diaconate and its important direction.



NADD CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 4/16/07 | Exec. Committee & Board Arrive | Omni Hotel Los Angeles, CA |
| 4/17/07 | Exec. Comm. & Board Meet | |
| 4/18/07 | Pre-Convention Workshops / New Directors' Institute | |
| 4/18/07-4/21/07 | Convention 2007 | |
| 4/22/07 | Departure | |
| 6/7/07-6/9/07 | Exec. Committee Meeting | Pontifical College Josephinum - Columbus, OH |
| 9/13/07-9/15/07 | Exec. Committee and Board Meet | St. Mary Seminary - Houston, TX |

A testimonial on the Justice Homily Aids

Deacon Paul Pettie
Director of the Diaconate/Diocese of St. Augustine

First I need to say, I do not advocate anyone using any homily aid "word for word." Normally that does not work or seem authentic. A preacher simply cannot adopt someone else's homily, in most cases, and put it over enthusiastically. That being said, I have been developing a theme of preaching on the Culture this year and have all three cycles books. I have to say that these are some of the best ideas, points and themes I have ever seen in homily aids. As a course of an 'outline' of excellent points and current concerns for our culture, they hit the mark beautifully. I would strongly recommend this Cycle C book for anyone who is looking for ideas for homilies this year.

Justice Themes for Sunday Liturgies Cycle C, written by Msgr. William Mehrkens, is available now. This publication contains 135 pages (8.5 x 11 spiral bound) of justice homiletic aids that follow the major themes for readings in Liturgical Cycle C. Justice Homilies for Cycles A and B are also available in limited quantities from the NADD office. The books are available now for purchase from the NADD web site. Cycles A and C are \$10.00 each and Cycle B is \$15.00, plus shipping/handling.

