

NADD NEWS

AUTUMN, 2003

SUCCESSFUL MEETING SPARKS ACTION

From the President

Deacon Alfred Mitchell

The executive board held its fall meeting with the regional representatives in the peaceful surroundings of San Pedro Center in Winter Park, Florida this past September. This column will talk about that meeting and a few other things.

One of the ideas that sprang from the regional representatives in their meeting was the establishment of a "self-standing" directors institute. The feeling is that NADD is now mature enough to move to another level. As envisioned, such an institute would be independent of the NADD convention, possibly located at a Catholic institution in the country. Discussion about such an institute centered around many things, such as the need for an institute, faculty, curriculum, location and resources for establishing and operating the institute. The board approved the concept and Dan Peterson was appointed as chair of a committee to study and report on the proposal. If you have any ideas and interest in this type of an institute, please contact Dan. He is in Phoenix.

The board met with Ed Porter, convention chair for Convention 2004. Most matters of the convention

have been finalized and we look forward to a very successful convention in Cherry Hill next April. One action taken by the board was to change the format of the convention. What we are proposing is to have the banquet on Friday, rather than Saturday. This would make it possible for those who want to get back to their dioceses early and attend the



Executive Board and Regional Representatives at Fall Meeting in Winter Park, Florida

banquet, to do so.

In St. Louis we had about seventy persons who opted not to attend the banquet because of their need to be in their parishes on Saturday evening and Sunday. There would be just one meeting on Saturday morning and the rest of the day would be available for those who want to take the tour being offered or return home.

On the matter of conventions, the 2005 convention is scheduled for New Orleans and Deacon Jim Swiler is the host. Greg Urban, Executive Director, reviewed the responses from the poll on having a convention in Hawaii in 2006. A

majority was in favor of it, but not now. Al Sandoval in Denver has graciously agreed to host that convention. We were last in Denver in 1987. Some thought was given to reconsidering Hawaii for 2008 when the Diaconate celebrates its 40th anniversary of its renewal.

Another item of discussion was the deacon perceiv- er survey. Generally, the survey is not widely used, and even if updated, there is no clear consensus that it would be used.

Deacon Sam Anzalone, chair of the ad hoc committee on the Constitution and by-laws, reported on the activity of his committee. The committee's

work is proceeding apace and by the next convention hopes to have a preliminary (emphasis added) report for the body's consideration and discussion.

In your prayers, please remember Bob Rackers of Region IX. I don't know the extent or nature of his illness, but it is serious enough for him to have resigned his post as regional rep. Deacon Bob McCoy of Davenport has been elected to serve as the new Region IX rep.

The peace of Christ be with you!



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From our 2004 Convention Chair

Deacon Ed Porter

As we approach the end of 2003, our thoughts turn toward the upcoming 2004 NADD convention to be held at the Clarion Hotel in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Cherry Hill is in the Diocese of Camden, bordering on the Delaware River opposite the City of Philadelphia. Access by car is along the New Jersey Turnpike, connecting with most major highways of the U.S. Access by air is to the Philadelphia International Airport, a short distance from Cherry Hill.

Plans are now being finalized for our convention, which will begin on April 21, 2004 and extend through April 24. There will be two pre-convention trips — each scheduled for Tuesday, April 20.

New York City — Pre-convention tours include a trip to New York City with the Circle Line boat trip around Manhattan Island and a stop at the Statue of Liberty. A tour of Radio City Television Studios will be included as well as a walking tour on Fifth Avenue, (Cont'd. Page 3)

From the Executive Director

Deacon Greg Urban

Wow! – It's hard to believe that it's been only four months since I assumed the position of Executive Director of NADD. I've already attended one convention, three Executive Board meetings and two Regional Rep meetings. I've truly been impressed with the sincerity, dedication and professionalism of the Executive Board and Regional Reps.

As Alfred reported in his President's Report, a lot of exciting things have been happening. Probably the most exciting of these is the prospect of creating a stand-alone professional "Institute" for training diaconate directors. I will be sending you an email survey soon asking for your thoughts on this. I would ask you to respond promptly and honestly. I'm told the idea of creating an "Institute" is not new, however, from my read at the recent meeting, there is a real feeling of urgency. People have already come forward to help "make this happen." I will share the results of the "Institute" survey with you as soon as it is compiled.

Speaking of surveys, the "Perceiver" and "Hawaii" results are in! Alfred gave you the bottom line on both these in his report, but here are the specifics:

Hawaii Survey Results :

The response to asking the membership if we should hold Convention 2006 in Hawaii:

1. This survey was sent via letter with a self-addressed postage paid return postcard to the 294 NADD "full" members via USPS.
2. We received a total of 154 returned cards, faxes, etc., by the cut-off date of September 10, 2003. This represents a 52% response rate.
3. We asked the membership to make one of three possible choices regarding having our NADD Convention 2006 in Hawaii: Yes, No, or Wait. The results were: **YES = 55 (36%)**, **NO = 45 (29%)**, **YES, BUT WAIT = 54 (35%)**.

Based upon these results, the Board has decided not to hold Convention 2006 in Hawaii. However, based upon the majority of you (71%) indicating you would like a convention in Hawaii, either now or sometime in the future, I have been asked to revisit this in the future. It has been suggested that we consider a Hawaii convention for a major milestone event, such as the 40th anniversary of the renewal of the diaconate in 2008. Stay tuned...

So what about 2006? We have received a letter from Archbishop Chaput inviting us to hold our Convention 2006 in their great city of Denver. We have accepted his gracious invitation. Denver is west-centrally located, has a wonderful climate and is an airport hub. This should make it convenient and cost-effective for our membership, especially in these times of fiscal restraint. We are most grateful to Deacon Al Sandoval for agreeing to coordinate this effort locally. Plan on attending our upcoming conventions: 2004 in New Jersey, 2005 in New Orleans, and 2006 in Denver!

Perceiver Survey Results:

The response to asking the membership if NADD should look into updating the Deacon Perceiver Screening Instrument: From the data, I make the following observations:

1. This was an email survey. Not all members have or read email.
2. A total of 61 dioceses (~35%) reported. Of the 61, 13 (21%) currently use the Perceiver and 48 (79%) do not.
3. Of the 13 dioceses that use the Perceiver, the average time they've used it is 14.1 yrs.
4. Of the 48 dioceses that don't currently use the Perceiver, 18 (38%) have used it in the past and 30 (62%) never have used it.
5. Of the 48 dioceses who don't currently use the Perceiver, 16 (34%) said they would use it if updated, 18 (38%) said they wouldn't use it under any circumstance and 13 (28%) were uncertain as to whether they'd use it or not if updated.
6. Of the 61 dioceses, 34 (56%) said the Perceiver should be updated, 9 (15%) said it was not necessary and 18 (29%) abstained.
7. Of the 61 dioceses, 19 (31%) said

they would contribute \$6,550 toward updating; 39 (64%) said they would not contribute and 3 (5%) didn't answer.

8. Of the 61 dioceses, 24 (39%) said NADD should contribute an average of \$5,860 toward updating; 15 (25%) said NADD shouldn't contribute, 15 (25%) were uncertain whether NADD should contribute or not and 7 (11%) didn't respond.

There was a feeling from many respondents that the Deacon Perceiver is a commercial product and as such should be updated by the organization or company offering it. Ultimately then, it would be paid for by its users. Based upon your responses, the Board has decided to take no immediate action on this matter. We would like to thank all who participated in this survey.

The detailed results of both these surveys are available on the "Members Only" page of the NADD web site (www.nadd.cc).

Lastly, we will be testing a modified format for our Convention in 2004. As Alfred indicated, based upon your input from the last convention, we will be moving the main liturgy and banquet to Friday evening from its customary Saturday evening position. Our hope in doing this is that more of you will be able to attend the banquet. Last year, some 70 attendees needed to leave prior to the banquet. From this, it became clear to us that many of you have responsibilities that demand your presence at your home parish on Sunday. I need to remind you, however, that we do have hotel space commitments for Saturday evening. Therefore, in order to entice you to stay over Saturday night, we have planned a great tour package for Saturday and we will price it so you won't be able to say no! See Ed Porter's article on convention tours in this newsletter for details. I encourage you to take advantage of the wonderful tours that are planned for your enjoyment.

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas.



From My Library to Yours

Deacon Anthony P. Cassaneto, Ed.D.,
Past President of NADD

During these past few months I have been busy reading as much as I can about the diaconate. As some of you may know, I have completed my doctoral studies and have had my doctoral proposal approved. I am now in the process of writing my dissertation, entitled *Deacon: Icon of Jesus the Servant*.

I would like to share with two books that I have found very helpful and enriching. The first book is called, *Leadership in the Church: How Traditional Roles can serve the Christian Community Today*, written by Walter Cardinal Kasper published by Herder and Herder 2003. [ISBN 0-8245-1977-9]. Cardinal Avery Dulles comments on this book: "In this new collection of essays Cardinal Kasper deals with crucial questions for the Church of our day...He writes with openness and moderation...even theologians who might differ will be impressed by the strength of his arguments." His first essay is on the Diaconate. Cardinal Kasper unfolds the ministry of the deacon, establishes a "communio" ecclesiology as the basis of the Diaconate. Kasper states, "the ecclesiology of communio makes the ministry of the

permanent deacon a necessity. He represents Jesus Christ...the good shepherd...who goes in search of the strayed sheep...and is willing to lay down his own life in the attempt." I highly recommend this book to you for your library and for your personal enrichment.

The second book entitled, *They Call Him Pastor: Married Men in Charge of Catholic Parishes* written by Dr. Ruth A. Wallace published by Paulist Press 2003 with a Foreword by Bishop Richard J. Sklba [ISBN 0-8091-4171-X]. I found this book encouraging for those who aspire to parish leadership positions and a resource to bishops who may need to turn to deacons or lay men for the healthy continuation of parish life. Dr. Wallace who was the president of both the Association for the Sociology of Religion and the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion covers in this book the reactions of the men themselves who are doing the pastoring, their wives, children, the parishioners, the priests who come to preside at Mass and administer the sacraments, and the bishops who made the appointment. Again I highly recommend this book to you for your library and enrichment.



Convention...cont'd. from page 1)

and a tour of St. Patrick's Cathedral. The trip will continue to the Empire State building plus a simulated air trip covering the entire city. As we return to Cherry Hill, there will be a stop at the site of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Lunch will be on your own with several good restaurants in mid-town. Estimated cost per person for the New York tour is \$105.00.

Washington, D.C. — An additional pre-convention trip (Tuesday, April 20) will be to Washington, DC. On arrival, access will be provided to the Tourmobile, which encircles the National Mall with several on and off stops where you can view your own places of interest. Stops along the way include the U.S. Capital, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam and Korean War Memorials, the Washington Monument, Smithsonian Institute, Holocaust Museum, Library of Congress, U.S. Treas-



ury and several others. Lunch will be on your own. Estimated cost per person is \$75.00.

For those interested, there may also be a tour of the John Paul II Museum. Donation charges will be quoted upon request.

Philadelphia — Our final tour will take place on Saturday, April 24. The bus will take us to the berthing area on the Delaware River of the Battleship New Jersey, our nation's most decorated battleship. On arrival, there will be a two-hour tour of the ship, followed by a light lunch on board the vessel. At mid-afternoon, we will be taken by ferry to the convention center of Philadelphia where we may visit all of the attractions of historic Philadelphia. Sites of historic interest include Independence Hall, Congress Hall, the Liberty Bell and City Tavern (the meeting place of the first & second Continental Congresses). Also within walking



distance is Ben Franklin's Post Office where you may purchase postcards with Franklin's signature and tour his underground museum. Many other historic buildings are available for your inspection. Dinner will be on your own, with a wide choice of desirable restaurants. Return to the hotel by bus at 8:30 p.m. Arrangements may be made for a Saturday evening Mass in Philadelphia. Estimated cost for the Philadelphia tour is \$60.00 per person, which includes lunch on the Battleship.

Individual arrangements can be made to visit the various shrines in the general Philadelphia area: National Shrine of St. John Neumann; National Shrine of St. Katherine Drexel; National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia; National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

We believe that the part of the program outlined above is both exciting and interesting. It offers a wide vista ranging from historic sites to our own Catholic religious shrines. You will receive much more information as we move into 2004.

Lilly Grant Rep Appointed

Deacon Michael Berstene, Director of Deacon Personnel for the Diocese of Norwich, has been named the NADD Lilly Grant Representative by President Alfred Mitchell.

NADD joined five other national organizations in applying for a Lilly grant. In September, 2002, the grant for \$2 million was approved.

At the heart of this grant proposal is a decision made by six national ministerial organizations to collaborate on sustaining the pastoral excellence of the emerging models of pastoral leadership in the Catholic Church. The goal is to create a climate in which much needed research, theological reflection, and practical transforming action can take place. The belief is that this collaborative effort will lead to ongoing renewal of individual ministries, and beyond to the emergence of new models of pastoral leadership.

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CONVENTION 2004 HIGHLIGHTS

**Theme: Theology of the Diaconate:
 State of the Question**

- **Clarion Hotel and Convention Center —
 Cherry Hill, NJ**
- **Room Rate: \$90.00 plus tax. Make your
 reservation after 1/15/04**
- **Pre-Convention Tours to**
 - **Washington, DC**
 - **New York City**
- **Saturday Tour**
 - **Philadelphia**
 - **Battleship New Jersey**
 - **Tours to National Shrines available**



**Update from the Secretariat
 for the Diaconate**

Deacon William T. Ditewig, Ph.D.

Greetings from Washington! I just want to give you all a brief update on several matters we're working on at the Secretariat.

As most of you already know, the revised *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States* is still in Rome awaiting final approval. We sent it over in July, after the full body of bishops had approved it in June by a vote of 235 for, 2 no, with 3 abstentions. Believe it or not, the biggest discussions behind the scenes were about the relationship of the document to the Eastern Catholic Churches. The Committee approved, and the full body of bishops obviously concurred, with a number of corrections to the text that restored stronger language concerning the relationship of Matrimony to Orders, and other matters. While it is not a "perfect" document, it is, in my opinion, one that we can all work with and it should serve us well. I would again want to thank the members of the NADD, many of whom served in a variety of capacities on this project: as authors, consultants, advisors and so on. As an Association, the NADD Convention in Boston in 1999 was a real turning point in the development of the document, since it was dedicated totally to the document and its component parts. I simply want to stress the significant contributions of the NADD to the *National Directory*.

While we're waiting for the *Directory*, the Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate is busy preparing for its implementation. To that end, the bishops are reviewing revised policies and standards for diaconate formation programs that are keyed to the new *Directory*. These will be discussed in detail during the November meeting of the BCD, which will be attended by the leadership of the NADD and

the other six national diaconate associations. The bishops will also review and release the new video presentation on the wives of deacons. As I write this article, the final title has not been approved, but the working title is "Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives." It is approximately 15 minutes long and contains interviews with six wives of deacons on a variety of topics ranging from the impact of diaconal ministry on family life to the expectations of parishioners. It has been produced by a grant from the Catholic Communications Campaign, and will be available shortly through the USCCB Publications Department.

I also would like to encourage everyone to begin preparing now for the fourth National Catholic Diaconate Conference, to be held in Baltimore 1 – 4 July 2004. Fr. Patrick Carrion and Deacon Tony Norcio are the primary coordinators of this project, which is co-sponsored by the Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate and the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Fr. Carrion and Deacon Norcio are trying to engage as many of the national associations of deacons and directors as possible in the planning and conduct of the event. Therefore, if you have any ideas or suggestions, or if your diocese or region would like to volunteer to coordinate a particular event, liturgy or tour, please get in touch with either Fr. Carrion or Deacon Norcio. You can contact them through my office at 202-541-3038 or through the NCDC 2004 web site: www.Archbalt.org/NCDC2004. The overall theme of Conference is: "The Deacon in His Relationships", and confirmed keynote presentations will be given by Cardinal James Stafford, Bishop Wilton Gregory, and Dr. Dennis McManus.

If I can be of assistance to any of you on anything, please don't hesitate to contact me at 202-541-3038 or [wditewig@usccb.org](mailto:wдитеwig@usccb.org). The Secretariat exists to serve the bishops and you!

May you all have a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas!

NADD CALENDAR		
1/22/04—1/24/04	Board/Convention Chair	Oblate Renewal Center San Antonio, TX
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	St. Benedict Center Madison, WI (tentative)
1/20/05—1/23/05	Board/Convention Chair Meetings	Phoenix, AZ Area (TBD)
4/20/05—4/24/05	Convention 2005	New Orleans, LA