

NADD NEWS

AUTUMN, 2004

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QUO VADIS?

From the President

Deacon Timothy J. McAuliffe

Where are you going is a serious question. This is the question we must ask ourselves regularly; daily at our examen; if we are to move forward in our lives. Quo Vadis must be a regular part of our routine and so it is with the National Association of Diaconate Directors.

When Lord Jesus asked Peter, "Quo Vadis?", as Peter was hiking away from Rome and towards safety, it stopped Peter in his tracks. Peter stopped - thought - and then turned in the direction he must.

We don't have to make a 180 degree turn because we have a legacy that has served us well. Previous NADD Boards have provided firm foundational example and direction for us to continue building on.

In our September NADD meetings of the Board of Regional Representatives and the Executive Board there was a chance to stop and think and focus on the direction we must move in. We met in Madison, WI at the Diocesan Center. Kate Wiskus made the arrangements even as the first class of deacons were being readied by Kate for the first diaconal ordination of permanent deacons in Madison. When the Boards met there was an acknowledgment that the fostering of open communications was of paramount importance to the livelihood of our mission to serve the people of God through the Directors of Diaconate. Our stated common resolve in keeping good communications going will entail extra work for everyone - most especially within the regions.

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NADD Executive Board and Board of Regional Representatives
 Bishop O'Connor Catholic Pastoral Center, Madison, WI—September 17, 2004.
 L-R Back Row: Deacons Tim McAuliffe, Math Prom, Greg Urban, Alfred Mitchell, Dan Peterson, Loris Sinanian. Middle Row: Deacons David Craig, Tony Detje, Bob McCoy, Sr. Jeremia Januschka, OSB, Deacon John Sicilia, Sr. Grayce Ross, RCDB, Fr. David Dowdle. Front Row: Deacons Frank Chavez, Ray Sanders and Leo McBlain.

LAISSEZ LE BON TEMPS ROULER

From the 2005 Convention Chair

Deacon Jim Swiler

A giant slice of southern hospitality is waiting to envelop the NADD next April as we gather here in New Orleans for the 2005 National Convention on April 13 – 16, 2005. The Archdiocese of New Orleans, the community of deacons and the directors of Region V extend a special invitation to join us for a very informative, exciting, and historic week. Here in New Orleans we are known for our hospitality, our history, our music and our food.

The convention will feature two major themes which should resonate with directors: Restorative Justice (which will explore ways in which we can provide the skills for deacons to minister to those returning to society) and the Implementation of the new National Directory. In addition, various workshops will provide information which will aid us in our role as directors.

We are excited about the location....convention headquarters will be the beautiful Omni Royal Orleans Hotel in the heart of the French Quarter. The hotel is just 1½ blocks from the historic Cathedral of St. Louis King of France, the oldest continually operating Cathedral in the United States. We will celebrate Eucharist each day of the convention at St. Louis Cathedral. The Cathedral Parish was established in 1718. Adjacent to St. Louis Cathedral is Jackson Square, and just two blocks over, a spectacular view of the mighty Mississippi River.

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From the Exec. Director Deacon Greg Urban

New Professional Resources Committee Debuts

What do you know about NADD committees? In NADD we have two types of committees, *standing* and *ad hoc*. Standing committees are generally defined within bylaws as committees that exist until either the bylaws are changed or until the corporation ceases to exist. Ad hoc committees are defined as temporary committees, formed by action of the president for a particular purpose for a finite period. This finite period usually ends when the project or assignment is completed.

One of the things that the Executive Board did recently was to analyze the functions and status of the various ad hoc committees.

At the last board meeting, the Executive Board with the counsel of the Board of Regional Representatives decided to

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Update from the Secretariat for the Diaconate

Deacon William T. Ditewig

Greetings once again from Washington, DC. Life here at the USCCB is always interesting, but in the final throes of a political season things are particularly exciting! I have several things to share with you.

During his last visit to the Holy See in March, Bishop Gregory was told to expect the final *recognitio* from the Holy See on the revised *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States* in November. This was the first time that a specific date was mentioned, so this was very good news. Bishop Gregory is in Rome again as I write this (in the last week of October), and he hopes to receive final word while he's there. As soon as we hear definitively that the *recognitio* has been received, I will let you all know as quickly as possible through e-mail, on our website, and through the mail.

Let me outline what will happen once the approval is received. First, we will prepare the document for promulgation by the President of the USCCB. This includes finalizing an Index, preparation of the letters and other documents of promulgation, and then preparing to mass produce the document itself. If the approval is received in November, for example, our hope is to have it promulgated and ready for distribution in January or February. In addition to the *National Directory* itself, other documents will be released at the same time. For example, the "Basic Standards for the Formation of Deacons" and the revised "Visitation Protocol" have been prepared and are keyed to the *National Directory*. Finally, a wide assortment of supporting documents that were used as important resources in the preparation of the *National Directory* will also be included. This includes various papal documents, documents of the USCCB, and so on. In addition to hard copies of all this material, it will also be distributed on CD-ROM, so that everything can be easily accessed in an electronic format. Our

Publications Department is standing by to make all this happen.

One way that has been discussed to assist in the implementation of the *National Directory* is for a team of speakers to present "train the trainers" sessions for each episcopal region. In this way, those involved with the diaconate in each region can be provided with good background material on the document as well as solid practical suggestions for implementation. These programs could then be used by the attendees as part of your own diocesan programs for implementation as you see fit.

The tenure of the 2001-2004 Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate is coming to a close with the November General Meeting of the USCCB. As many of you know, Bishop Robert Morlino of Madison, the current Chair of the Committee, is recovering from extensive heart surgery. I ask that you keep him in your prayers. He will be unable to travel to Washington for our November BCD meetings, so Bishop Michael Warfel will fill in. Following the November meeting Bishop Frederick Campbell, Bishop-elect of Columbus, Ohio, will assume the Chair. At that point he will invite new bishop-members to the Committee; at this point in time, I do not know who those bishops will be. Bishop Campbell and I will also be looking at the Committee structure itself, and investigating ways in which we can develop the Committee's process for the implementation of the *National Directory*.

The Liturgy Secretariat here at the USCCB and I are working on a new liturgical guide for deacons that will replace the old *Study Text VI* that was around for so long! I've seen an early draft of this document and it looks good. Once we're able to get it out, it should be a useful study text/workbook, especially for those in formation and as an update for continuing formation. I'll keep you posted as this document progresses.

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. The Secretariat exists to serve the bishops and you!



Convention

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Our pre-convention tour will take us to the magnificent plantation homes of the old South. During the convention days there will be many other options: for those who wish, there will be a full work agenda, and for others, the opportunity to experience this historic city such as a taste of Mardi Gras, a Cajun Cooking School, and everyone will have the opportunity to join a "Second Line."

Special plans are also in place for the convention banquet which will feature Cajun music and a Cajun humorist, which will

add a much needed change in our usual banquet program by adding a *South Louisiana Flavor*.

I would personally like to invite those who usually leave on Friday (April 15) to consider staying through Saturday (April 16). On Saturday, in addition to several great presentations and an optional Mardi Gras experience, we will conclude our time together at St. Mary's Church (completed in 1845) which is on the grounds of the Old Ursuline Convent, the oldest documented building in the Mississippi Valley.

The original convent was begun in 1727 and completed in 1734. The present building was completed in 1753. Upon their arrival in 1727, the Ursuline Nuns established a school for girls and also began

educating African American and Native American women.

Since the Holy Father has designated this as the "Year of the Eucharist" we will close the convention with Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction using a very historic monstrance which was crafted from gold jewelry and jewels donated by the people of the Archdiocese for the 1938 Eucharistic Congress held here in New Orleans.

The monstrance is a special treasure of the church and is permanently housed at Saint Mary's Church. We will then follow with the celebra-



tion of the Eucharist, which will be followed by a wonderful buffet served on the grounds of the Old Ursuline Convent by one of New Orleans' finest restaurants. This will allow you to sample a variety of our world famous cuisine.

If you've ever wanted to visit New Orleans...this is your chance to experience the unique charm of this city.

Sooo, mark your calendar and make plans now for April 13 - 16 (pre-convention April 12), 2005. Come join us to "pass a good time."

From the President

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The advice and counsel of the Board of Regional Representatives was sought and received by the Executive Board. And this will continue.

The Boards discussed the fact that the Year of the Eucharist runs from October through to next year. NADD will use that opportunity as a fulcrum to promote excellence in our Eucharistic liturgies at the April Convention. Since the Masses will take place at the nearby St. Louis Cathedral, we are confident that they will be of the highest quality.

In tandem with our commitment to remind ourselves of the centrality of the Eucharist in Christian life, we will also endeavor to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours in the most fitting way possible. In order to model the Liturgy of the Hours to ourselves we will have a workshop on the topic area as well.

We will strive and plan to attain and maintain excellence in all aspects of our April NADD Convention. Our plenary session subject areas will be on Restorative Justice and on The New Directory. The educational pieces will be the best possible rollouts that talent and preparation can combine to create. We are specific about how we are working in that direction.

Deacon Dan Peterson will be Captain of a Deacon Directors Institute for NADD membership. At Convention 2005 there will be a mini-Institute. Convention 2006 in Denver will see a fuller prototype of the Directors' Institute. This expanded version will connect with part of the Convention. Attendance at the mini and prototype Institutes will be by invitation only and prep work and reading will be required before attending. The expectation is that this deliberateness in roll out,

assessment, and refinement will result in a free standing Institute beginning in 2007.

We are also on the way to establishing a professional journal related to the deacon. This endeavor promises to provide a most helpful and interesting anthology of articles on diakonia. It will begin a tradition which started with the booklet created in 1991 celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Diaconate.

Our web site, www.NADD.cc, is already better than we hoped for. It is continually being enhanced and made handier. Deacon Greg Urban and Mrs. Judy Bouma at NADD HQ are a big plus in the area of the web site and the other ordinary and new endeavors.

NADD is in concert with Deacon Bill Ditewig. Deacon Bill's work with Paulist Press in developing a line of books for the deacon and deacon people brings us forward. Deacon Bill's 2004 book, *101 Questions & Answers on Deacons* and Deacon Owen Cummings 2004 book, *Deacons and The Church* are both great reads. I also commend to you Deacon Director (Portland in Maine) Msgr. Charles Murphy's book, *Belonging To God - A Personal Training Guide for the Deeper Catholic Spiritual Life*. This last book isn't just for the deacon, but it is also is very well done.

That's a distillation of our discussion as to where we are going. We will get there if we have your vitality and prayer integral to this effort.

As we look forward to the Incarnation may we find Jesus as the focus and the motivator of each of us so we may bring Him into the hearts of all we meet along the way we must travel.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this. Any questions or clarifications or suggestions please contact any one of us serving you on the NADD Boards.



NADD CALENDAR

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
1/2006	Board/Convention Chair Meetings	Jacksonville, FL
4/19/06- 4/22/06	Convention 2006	Hyatt Regency Tech Center Denver, CO

From the Executive Director

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combine the responsibilities of three of the ad hoc committees: Information and Resources, Publications, and Education, to form one new ad hoc committee called Professional Resources. This new ad hoc committee will have responsibilities including: the review of written documents for quality and content prior to publication, writing and/or commissioning new NADD documents on the diaconate to be written, and oversight and article selection for the professional journal that Tim talked about in his article in this newsletter to name a few.

With this recent change we now have three *standing* and three *ad hoc* committees. The standing committees are: Finance, Resolutions, and Nominating. The ad hoc committees are now: Professional Resources, Constitution & Bylaws, and Directors' Institute.

President Tim McAuliffe has charged the new Professional Resources Committee with improving the throughput of quality papers and publications while continuing and improving upon the high standards set for us by prior NADD boards. We are pleased that many of the Regional Reps have agreed to serve on this new committee. If you have the time and interest in serving, please contact Tim or me.

OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS HOTEL RESERVATIONS - RESERVE ON THE WEB @

<http://www.nadd.cc/Convention05.html> - Click on Hotel Reservations

Or if you prefer to reserve via phone, call: 504-529-5333

Be sure to mention the NADD convention for the \$110 room rate (Deluxe Queen Room).

Rooms may be reserved for 3 days before and after the convention dates (4/8-4/19, 2005).

AMERICAN AIRLINES offers a 5% discount off economy and 10% off full coach fares.

You must make this reservation by phone at: 1-800-433-1790 - Authorization code for the NADD Convention: 7345AL

This offer is for flights from 4/8-4/20, 2005 to New Orleans

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



HANDS

An old man, probably some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the park bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands.

When I sat down beside him he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if he was ok.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was ok. He raised his head and looked at me and smiled.

Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking, he said in a clear strong voice.

I didn't mean to disturb you, sir, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands. I just wanted to make sure you were ok, I explained to him.

Have you ever looked at your hands he asked. I mean really looked at your hands?

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down.

No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point he was making. Then he smiled and related this story:

Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years.

These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life.

They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back.

As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots.

They dried the tears of my children and caressed the love of my life, my wife.

They held my rifle and wiped my tears when I went off to war. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent.

They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band, they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special.

They wrote the letters home and trembled and shook when I buried my parents, my spouse, and walked my daughter down the aisle.

Yet, they were strong and sure when I dug my buddy out of a foxhole and lifted a plow off of my best friends foot.

They have held children, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand.

They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw.

And to this day, when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.

These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life. I have petted my animals and my dogs and I have bonded through my hands. I can feel the warmth of their fur even now.

They are twisted and swollen, and scarred, they have done just about everything I have asked them to do.

They are my loyal servants, and when I take my last breath I hope I have both hands held; one by a loved one here and the other by my Savior and brother Jesus the Christ whose hand has always held mine.

