

**March 7, 2019**

**Following is the 45-year history from 1975 to 2019 of the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) as compiled by Jim Alt from the *Diaconal Quarterly*, *Deacon Digest* and *NDICE NEWS* publications.**

## **National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE )**

### **1975**

The very early history of the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education, popularly known as NDICE, can be traced to a meeting held on August 3, 1975 in the office of Fr. Kieran Nolan, OSB, at St. John's University, in Collegeville, Minnesota. The meeting was held to discuss the need for permanent deacons to come together on a national level for a sharing of experiences and insights following ordination and for post-ordination formation. Since this meeting led to the formation the following year of what came to be called the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE), this is considered the First Annual Meeting of NDICE.

### **1976**

The following year, from August 6-8, 1976 a group of U.S. permanent deacons met at St. John's University in Collegeville. About 40 deacons, deacon candidates and their families were in attendance; the initiative for this historic meeting came from deacons in the Midwest. Following the initial meeting in 1975 in Collegeville, this was the Second Annual Meeting of NDICE.

The conference was developed by a coordinating committee of deacons from the dioceses of Cheyenne, Wyoming; Chicago and Rockford, Illinois; Cleveland, Cincinnati and Toledo, Ohio; Detroit and Lansing, Michigan; Green Bay, Wisconsin; Natchez-Jackson, Mississippi; New Ulm, Minnesota; Paterson, New Jersey; San Diego, California; Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia and Washington, D.C

The three-day conference opened with a welcome from Fr. Kieran Nolan, OSB, who was Rector of the St. John's University Divinity School; he was already a long-time participant in the development of the permanent diaconate in the United States. Following his welcome, the keynote address was given by Msgr. Ernest (Bud) Fiedler, Executive Secretary of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate (BCPD).

In his address, Msgr. Fiedler emphasized that “service” is the crux of being a deacon. He quoted the Second Chapter of St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, saying that “it should be the deacon’s basic text. The chapter speaks of Christ “taking the nature of a servant.”

Continuing, he said that deacons are “recognized” as deacons of Christ in the ordination rite. “Deacons are highlighted for recognition,” he said, “you stand at the altar making sense as a deacon only as you bring to the altar your ‘service role.’ Your liturgical role makes sense only as it reflects a service role to the community.”

Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Walter Schoenherr, a member of the BCPD, reminded those present that the first seven deacons chosen by the Apostles were “men who were full of the Spirit and full of wisdom. You notice they put ‘full of the Spirit’ first,” he said. “We don’t know why God has picked us. We don’t know why He has put the Spirit in us,” he added, “but you don’t have to apologize for your diaconate. You are called by God in the wholeness of your being to be a deacon. This holy deacon is to be like Christ, to give himself in service to the hungers of the world.”

This second meeting of what is now known as the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) included workshops during the three days on spirituality, continuing education, the relationship of the sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony, clericalism, formation programs, and integrating the deacon into a diocese.

Integrating deacons into a diocese is a problem, according to a workshop chairman who reported “primarily when we are ordained, we are integrated into the diocese. Actually and functionally, we are not.” Another workshop participant said that deacons can be integrated into the diocese by establishing credibility. “We have to prove ourselves, then we will be used,” he said. “Once priests realize we’re not there to replace them but to help them, then they won’t feel threatened and they will put us to use.”

Workshop participants agreed that there is a critical need for continuing spiritual growth. “As the Church moves, so must the deacon move” was often heard at sessions during the conference. Wives of deacons, in their own workshop, evaluated their roles in their husbands’ ministry and saw it primarily as being one of support. Deacons in attendance agreed that their wife and family are crucial to their success as a deacon, and some of them said their families were “sharing” in their diaconal ministry.

It is important to point out that this meeting was organized by the deacons themselves, and approved by Msgr. Fiedler. Previous national meetings of the permanent diaconate had been organized by the BCPD, but this was the first meeting organized by the deacons. As a result of this historic first meeting, a new support group for U.S. deacons, the Permanent Diaconate

Institute, was formed, to serve as a clearing house for information, ideas and common interests for all permanent deacons in the United States through an annual meeting.

## **1977**

During the Fifth Annual Meeting of the U.S. Diocesan Diaconate Directors in New Orleans in February, 1977. Deacon Steve Marabeti from the diocese of Paterson, New Jersey gave a report concerning the formation and continuation of the Institute and the possible evolution and continuation of fraternities of deacons on diocesan, regional and national levels. He noted that the idea of a structure for deacons developed at the August, 1976 meeting at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, where a number of the deacons found that they shared the same needs. They came to the conclusion that their two major needs were continuing education and continuing dialogue.

To provide for continuing education, he said planning had begun for an institute to be held at the University of Notre Dame on August 4-7, 1977, in coordination with Notre Dame's Center for Continuing Education. Diocesan diaconate directors were asked to make note at the February meeting of the August meeting at Notre Dame, and attempt to make summer plans around these early August dates, and also to remind deacons and wives in their diocese of this meeting so they could attend. He said further information was available by writing to the Diaconate Institute, Center for Continuing Education, Box W, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556.

The National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education, heretofore referred to as NDICE, held its third conference at the University of Notre Dame on August 4-7, 1977. The theme of this Third Annual Meeting was *"Education for Service"*, and the keynote speaker was Msgr. John Egan, Administrative Assistant to the president of Notre Dame. Workshops focused on new diaconal ministries, family counseling, evangelization, death and dying, gerontology, cultural pluralism, hospital ministry, spirituality, justice and peace, and the celibate deacon. Coordinator of this NDICE meeting was Deacon Joseph Newman, from the diocese of Cleveland, Ohio. Program chairman was Deacon Stanley Gogol from the Toledo, Ohio diocese; liturgy chairman was Deacon Sam Bues from the Lansing, Michigan diocese. Deacon Robert Goetz from the Archdiocese of Detroit served as Master of Ceremonies and Deacon Jack Zellmer from the Arlington, Virginia diocese was Secretary.

Stated as the three general purposes of this institute were to:

- 1) Provide a two-way avenue of communication between NDICE and the Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate (BCPD).

2) Further the theological, spiritual and pastoral developments of diaconal ministry through an annual institute;

3) And lastly, to promote ministry in the context of cultural pluralism to Blacks, American Indians, the Spanish-speaking, and others. Attendees and organizers said they hoped to bring together deacons, wives and families from different geographical backgrounds in order to share ideas and programs in serving the needs of all humanity.

Deacon Michael Newman, editor of the diocesan newspaper for the diocese of San Diego, California, filed this report following the conclusion of the August 4-7,1977 meeting at Notre Dame:

“The four-day National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education was held at the University of Notre Dame during August of this year. One hundred permanent deacons and fifty wives from throughout the United States attended this meeting. Bishop William McManus of the host diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend told the attendees to be ‘ministers of the street and not necessarily ministers of the sanctuary.’ He said that it is “out there” where church communities are in these days of “diminishing parish communities.” You are ‘out there’, in the street where the Church needs to be.”

Msgr. Ernest (Bud ) Fiedler, Executive Director of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on the Permanent Diaconate (BCPD) told the attendees what he considers the greatest concerns facing the permanent deacons today. They are:

“Better relations between priests and deacons; the danger of deacons becoming liturgical functionaries; the problem of clericalism, with deacons as one of the steps in the authority structure.”

“The permanent diaconate has reached the stage of adolescence and we should be astonished that we have grown so rapidly. There is the vigor, insight, progress, desire for freedom and independence. But also deacons suffer from the dependence, insecurity and awkwardness of that age.” Warning against becoming too liturgical in outlook, Msgr. Fiedler said “an alb and ribbon doesn’t make anybody”, referring to the deacon’s liturgical garb. “You need to be recognized as a man of service, a living sign of the sacrament of service.” He said that the liturgical ministry only takes on its proper aspect when the deacon is recognized for his service in the community.

Bishop Joseph Crowley, Auxiliary Bishop of the Fort Wayne/South Bend diocese, said in welcoming remarks that he “cannot think of any group that is more important to the life of the

Church today than this diaconate group.” He told attendees not to be discouraged. “It will take a long time before we of the Church find the role you are going to fulfill.”

Stressing the importance of permanent deacons in the Church today, Msgr. John Egan, Director of the Center for Pastoral and Social Concerns at Notre Dame, said ‘I don’t think there is a movement in the Church about which I am more proud. You are an important part of the structure of the new Church.’ He said the deacons had come through in spite of ‘hostility and apathy’ from some of the clergy. ‘Men like yourselves will take on tough ‘gutsy’ apostolates which are reflected in the news of each day from every city. The permanent diaconate did not come a moment too soon. Questions which are presently unresolved will be resolved by you,’ he said. ‘Maybe the Church is asking too much of you, to commit yourselves to a ministry of service with your family responsibilities.’

He said the permanent diaconate had come at a time when there is ‘wonderful, exciting chaos in the world,’ and that the permanent diaconate, born out of Vatican II, ‘was one of those magnificent developments the Roman Catholic Church has not yet had time to digest.’

He reminded the deacons that they must always be servants, and to maintain ‘fertile receptiveness’ to hear the needs of the community. ‘The function of the deacon only exists in relation to the needs of the community,’ he stressed.

‘We have to go to the causes of injustice,’ he said. ‘For too long Christians have only been applying themselves to the results.’ He also said permanent deacons will perhaps ‘enable us to work with non-Christians to bring about a better world.’

Chairman of the Institute, Deacon Joseph Newman of Cleveland, Ohio said he felt the institute--which grew out of the meeting in Collegeville —proved the need for a national gathering of deacons. ‘There is a great need today to face up to the tensions and problems of an emerging new form of ministry in service,’ he said.

‘The only way for the deacon is the way of the ‘water and towel’, he said. ‘The pitcher and towel illustrate the role of the servant. The deacon must share his gifts with the Church, but if he finds that the official Church sometimes cannot hear the same call, the deacon may even have to argue, if necessary’ “.

Speaking of the deacon’s need for continuing education, Bishop James Hickey of Cleveland, former rector of the North American College in Rome, said “continuing education is an essential obligation of your ordination as permanent deacons. But make sure it is clearly rooted in the essential teachings of the Church.”

“You are not men to ‘do your own thing’ or ‘preach your own thing.’ You speak and act in the name of the Church and it is most important that continuing education keeps you aware of what the teaching of the Church speaks to us.”

“Continuing education is not added to the role of deacon. It’s a part of the role,” he added.

Bishop McManus said he hoped it would be possible to drop the terms “permanent” and “transitional” description of deacons. “Why not just ‘deacon?’” , he said, referring to the fact that transitional deacons are those proceeding to the priesthood.

Msgr. Fiedler said that many ‘barnacles’ had become attached to the priesthood over the centuries, including lector acolyte, sub-deacon, and deacon. ‘They absorbed everything into the priesthood,’ he said. Another institute is planned for next summer, also at Notre Dame.

## **1978**

The Fourth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) conference was held August 2-6, 1978 on the campus of Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. Planning for this meeting was spearheaded by the Executive Council of NDICE, which included Deacons Henry Bals (Cleveland,OH); Glenn Beaudry (Green Bay, WI ); Joseph Newman (Cleveland,OH); Lou Carubi (Cheyenne, WY); Stan Gogol (Toledo, OH ); Stephen Marabeti (Paterson , NJ ) and Arnold Pancratz (Jackson, MS ).

Theme of the 1978 NDICE was “*Serving the Family*”, and Deacon Samuel Bues was Program Chairman. He noted the theme on family was in keeping in tune with the U.S. bishops who identified this as a major concern for the modern Church. The program included activities for children, as many deacons brought their wives and children to this meeting.

In his welcoming remarks, Msgr. John Egan declared that “the manner in which the permanent deacons are responding so zealously, so immediately, so fully to the call of the Church is a source of encouragement. The renewed diaconal apostolate to the family is expected to bring healing into the lives of others, provide continuity for those who will follow, and lay the foundations for deacons of the decades to come.” Most importantly, in Msgr. Egan’s view, this apostolate to the family is that of Jesus, bringing healing, freeing, peace and serenity, all done with joy.

Principal speakers at the 1978 institute included Dr. Joan Aldous, a University of Notre Dame sociologist, who presented “An American Family Portrait—in 1978” and Msgr. John Gorman, a Chicago archdiocesan pastor, who discussed “Marriage and Ministry.” Father John Finnegan, a canonist on the staff of the Weston, MA School of Theology, presented a thought-provoking

discussion of the “Theology of Marriage”, and Mr. and Mrs. Terry Reilly, Miami, FL archdiocesan Family Life Directors, led a discussion on “Pastoral Approaches to Problems Confronting American Catholic Families Today.”

Msgr. John Egan, Director of the Center for Pastoral and Social Ministry at Notre Dame, challenged attendees in discussing “Serving the Family of Mankind—The Deacon in the Workplace.” (Tapes of these presentations were available for purchase).

Also addressing the institute attendees was Bishop Eugene A. Marino, SSJ, U.S. Bishops’ Committee on the Permanent Diaconate chairman. He encouraged all present to be open to the Holy Spirit in reflections and continuing studies in developing the diaconal ministry of service.

Msgr. Ernest Fiedler, Executive Director of the BCPD Secretariat, also addressed those attending on the “State of the Diaconate.” Following is a summary of his presentation:

“Diaconal function in the Church has two reference points: a genuine faith-experience of the servanthood of Jesus and a living witness to that servanthood in the complexities of human life. There cannot be a true living witness to the servanthood of Jesus in the complexities of human life unless it flows from a genuine faith-experience of that servanthood. And the faith experience will not occur without a deep and living spirituality.

A lived faith is nourished by spirituality. Diaconal spirituality, besides the basic elements common to all Christian spirituality, should have a focus in the biblical concepts of service and servant. Christian servanthood must be found in the very complexities of human life. As ordained sacramental presence of servanthood, the deacon must be a prophetic sign. Not on paper. Not in words alone. But in a living witness.

This is a challenge to all of God’s faithful people in Christ. It is not a challenge to deacons alone, but it is a particular challenge to deacons. The diaconate is showing consistent signs of growth, accompanied by signs of serious reflection. Only reflection can lead to a genuine faith-experience of the servanthood of Jesus and a living witness to that servanthood in the complexities of human life that will identify and specify diaconal function in the Church.

What obstacles will hinder these hopes ?

1) ‘Clericalism’; that the diaconate not become a continuation of or an articulation of a new ‘caste system.’

2) 'Liturgism'; that the diaconate not become merely a group of liturgical functionaries. Ritual-rootedness is essential, but a deacon is properly identified in the liturgy if he is a recognizable sign of service in the Christian community.

3) Relationship between priests and deacons: sharers in a common ordained ministry with the bishop. Catechesis is essential. We must not repeat the mistakes and pains of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries.

4) A 'bourgeois' diaconate: in this country, the danger of a 'middle class mentality' diaconate, insensitive to the disadvantaged, minority persons and communities is a possibility."

On the final evening of the four-day institute Bishop William McManus of the host Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese celebrated the closing Mass and spoke at the banquet which followed. Bishop McManus paid tribute to Msgr. Fiedler, and concluded his talk with three observations for the future of the Church and the diaconate:

First, the high priority task of a national pastoral council is to determine the role of the deacon in the life of the Church in the decade of the 80's.

Second, hopefully, it will become increasingly the practice of the Church that the parish or diocesan church will call or choose the diaconal candidate and present him to the bishop for ordination.

Third, the future role of the deacon in the 80's will be as preacher which will be central in his day-in, day-out ministry.

The last morning of the 1978 institute was devoted to beginning the planning for the 1979 NDICE.

## **1979**

The Fifth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE ) was held August 1-5,1979 on the campus of Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. The theme for this conference was *"Christian Ministry to Marriage and Family-- Exploring the Role of the Deacon.*

Planning for the Institute was coordinated with Notre Dame's Center for Continuing Education, which awarded a certificate to deacons who participated in the full course of the institute. The

registration fee for the institute was \$65, which covered the use of the facilities, the picnic, morning coffee breaks, program fees and other incidental costs.

The institute began the evening of August 1 with a welcome and overview by Msgr. John Egan, Director of the Notre Dame Center for Continuing Education. A total of 87 permanent deacons, many with their wives and children, attended this conference. Under the leadership of Drs. James and Evelyn Whitehead and Fr. Gordon Myers, SJ, three daily sessions focused on crisis, intimacy/mutuality and generativity within the family. Afternoon workshops were given by the three principal speakers and deacons on various subjects pertaining to family life.

In the evening sessions, Msgr. Ernest J. Fiedler, Executive Director of the Secretariat of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate, presented some preliminary results from the nationwide survey of the first ten years of the restoration of the permanent diaconate. Bishop Eugene Marino, SSJ, Chairman of the Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate (BCPD) spoke of the U.S. bishops' 1980 Plan of Pastoral Action for Family Ministry. Each evening ended with a social hour.

At the business session, the conference participants adopted a five-year, interim constitution for NDICE, and elected officers for two year terms were Deacons Stanley Gogol (Toledo, OH ) President; Hosea Alexander (Los Angeles, CA ) Vice-President; Michael Rovella (Chicago, IL) Secretary and John Dimeo (Newark, NJ ) Treasurer.

The Saturday evening schedule was devoted to an outdoor liturgy and picnic, and the Institute concluded with an 11:30 Mass on Sunday morning, August 5. The date of the 1980 Institute was set for August 6-9, 1980 at Notre Dame.

## **1980**

The Sixth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE ) was held on August 6-9, 1980 at Notre Dame with a theme of *"The Christian Call to Ministry."*

One hundred forty deacons, wives, priests and religious from 30 states and Canada attended this 1980 conference. The 1980 NDICE opened on Wednesday, August 6 with registration, dinner and a get-acquainted social and organizational meetings. Daily themes for the next three days were Liturgy and Ministry (Thursday); Word and Ministry (Friday) and Service and Community (Saturday). A talk each day focused on that day's theme.

On Thursday, Dr. Mark Searle, Associate Director of the Notre Dame Center for Pastoral Theology, called on deacons to help Catholics find continuity “between what they do in church and what they do in life.” With the decline of the diaconate in the early church and the development of monasteries the ministry of service became a specialized ministry, separate from the parish community, Dr. Searle said. “Jesus came to abolish the difference between worship and life. His were ‘sacraments of the street, healing and ministering.’ Christian life is a sacrament because it is a sign of Christ’s healing and forgiving love,” he continued. “The deacon who ministers, who serves both in the community and at the altar, reminds the church of the continuity between world and worship. The success of the restored diaconate will depend upon a renewed understanding of the relationship between liturgy and life,” Dr. Searle concluded. “Service is not a specialized ministry but is an integral part of being a Christian.”

At the Friday session, Rev. William Thompson, Scripture scholar from the Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago, called upon deacons to make their ministries richer and more effective “by participation in and criticism of sacred Scripture.” He said that “participation in Scripture comes from embracing the Word, and making it a living part of one’s life. Criticism is moving away from the Word and studying it, probing it for its deeper meaning.” Participation in the Word must come first, he continued. Criticism is difficult because of a natural fear of losing the intimacy we have discovered from participation. “In reality, however, criticism deepens participation. The goal of study is to understand.” We know the text by taking it to study. Both are necessary for the deacon, Father Thompson concluded.

On Saturday, Harry Fagan, Chairman of the Catholic Committee on Urban Ministry, addressed the deacon’s ministry of charity. He said deacons will find much support for treating the effects of injustice. “The model of the Good Samaritan undergirds our theology in this area,” he said. The deacon will find less support for attacking and correcting the causes of injustice, he continued. Changing institutions is more difficult and more threatening. Deacons must respond to their ministry of charity by treating the effects of injustice in individuals and also attack the causes of injustices in institutions, he concluded.

Participating in this year’s NDICE were Auxiliary Bishop Eugene Marino of Washington, DC, chairman of the BCPD, and Msgr. Ernest Fiedler, Executive Director of the BCPD Secretariat. Msgr. Fiedler reviewed the preliminary results of the national survey of deacons and deacons’ wives done for the U.S. Bishops’ Conference.

Members of the executive committee of NDICE listed the development of regional organizations as the top priority for the coming year. Deacon Elroy Bonerz of Milwaukee will be the chairman of the 1981 NDICE, and Deacon Jim Swiler of New Orleans will be vice-chairman. Afternoon workshops were a part of each day’s program, as was Eucharistic celebration and

dinner. The deacon follies and closing ceremonies were on Saturday evening, and the dates of the 1981 NDICE were set for August 5-8, 1981 at Notre Dame.

## **1981**

The Seventh Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) was held August 5-8, 1981 at the Center for Continuing Education at Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. *"The Deacon and Community"* was the theme of this year's conference, which was attended by 162 deacons and wives from the United States, plus one couple from Canada. The four-day program examined various aspects of the deacon's relationship with different communities.

The opening liturgy on Wednesday, August 5 was celebrated by Bishop William McManus of the Fort Wayne/South Bend, Indiana diocese. In welcoming attendees, Bishop McManus spoke of the need for the deacon and his role in the Church today. He spoke of his own experiences with the diaconate when he was pastor at a Chicago archdiocesan parish.....he spoke of the importance of the "street deacon" and applauded the wife's role and support to her husband and their shared ministry together as a team.

On Thursday, Msgr. Jack Egan, Director of the Center for Continuing Education opened the day's activities and thanked attendees for returning to Notre Dame for their annual conference. "As educators of truths and justice, the presence of the deacon in today's world, society and church, is a very healthful sign. You deacons are a living sign, a builder of community and of unselfish service to others." Deacon Stan Gogol acted as moderator for the Thursday program and introduced Brother William Abel, SM who spoke on "Building Community."

Brother Abel said "in order to build community, some very essential steps are required. First of all, we must know ourselves and our limitations. Each of us needs those moments of solitude and personal reflection, a time to sort it all out and bring things into perspective for ourselves. When we do come together with others to share either in small or large groups always be sure to open in prayer..... 'for where two or three are gathered in My name.... My presence will be there.' Learning to be open with one another and trying to accept each other's suggestions or ideas is one of the most important steps to be taken. To put aside indifference and share can be the only answer to a successful program of any kind." His morning presentation was followed by workshops on family community, work community and ministerial community, and Br. Abel gave a follow-up presentation in the evening.

On Friday, Steubenville, Ohio Bishop Albert Ottenweller addressed the theme of "The Deacon, Minister of Small Communities, about building community in the parish. Totally opposed to what he calls "the Lone Ranger" ministry where everyone acts independently, he reminded the deacons that the disciples were sent out by Jesus in pairs, 'two by two,' so that they could show that more than one was concerned. Already there was a start in building the Christian community....if one should fall, the other can pick him up." He said that people today "are crying out for community and that it is essential that we as deacons work harder than ever at our local levels. If we succeed in coming together it will be a lot easier to build the Kingdom of God in the world and bring peace and justice out into the world. First, we must begin to teach the people what it is to really be a Christian and not let ourselves react to situations out of a pagan mentality. We all know that it is beautiful to be loved by people and perhaps if we are open with others, love will become the mutual bond between one another."

Later, Father Thomas Gedeon, SJ spoke on "community spirituality" and two sessions in the afternoon were devoted to ministry interchanges. The day's program activities concluded with the NDICE business meeting and election of officers. Elected for the next two years were Deacons Hosea Alexander (Los Angeles,CA) President; James Swiler (New Orleans,LA) Vice-President; James Sonnenberg (Cincinnati,OH) Secretary, and John Dimeo (Newark,NJ) Treasurer. The possibility of moving the site of NDICE to a place other than Notre Dame was discussed, and it was decided to continue to meet at Notre Dame.

Father John Hedderman, Director of the Salt Lake City, Utah diaconal formation program, spoke of his relationships and experiences with deacons and U.S. diocesan deacon directors the previous ten years. He said a support group is a very important community that a deacon should belong to in building deacon community. He also made it clear that the husband-wife relationship and the role of the wife are extremely important. He said that in a diocese, "usually deacons share the same goals, aspirations and for most of them, they share marriage and secular works. No other group in the Church has these same goals, aspirations, backgrounds and needs," he said .

Continuing, he said "the deacon community must be viable and structured. People of good leadership quality should be chosen, but in order to function, they also need the support of the bishop, and, most important of all, the support of the majority of the deacons in that community. The community then must have the concerns of every single deacon in the diocese. Only deacons really know deacons and their situation, problems, and ministries and they are the best to solve each other's problems and share each other's concerns." He said the key to success is definitely support, and emphasized the importance of continuing education for deacons.

Msgr. Ernest Fiedler, Executive Director of the BCPD Secretariat, spoke on the significance of national and regional meetings for both deacons and deacon directors. He said there are key words which concern us at this meeting and they are.....'collegiality' and the words 'Basic Christian Community.' Collegiality forces one to get out of a parochial concept—forces one to get out of looking just in his or her own back yard and taking a universal outlook at our church. Regarding "basic Christian community," he said that the word that best defines this community group is 'ecclesiality.'" He concluded by saying that "we must be sensitive to large groups, but we must gather ecclesiastically to work with small groups. The quality and quantity of what has taken place at this meeting here at Notre Dame has been a big plus."

Celebrant of the closing Mass at the outdoor grotto site was Auxiliary Bishop John Kinney of St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN. In his homily, Bishop Kinney encouraged all to strive for unity, build community, and be that bridge and reconciler, interacting as a facilitator with priests, religious and laity. "Put aside indifferences and use all efforts to minister in service to others. Work with one another and avoid discouragement and disillusionment. Create a vision of life that is rooted in our Lord Jesus Christ. Be men and women of prayer and pray together that God will continue to sustain all so that together, as his people, we can be people of new hope, service and love. "

The hilarious "deacon follies" followed this closing Mass as the Seventh Annual NDICE ended.

## **1982**

The Eighth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) was held August 4-7, 1982 at Notre Dame University. Conference theme was *The Deacon in the Workplace*. One hundred sixty deacons and their wives from 60 dioceses were in attendance.

Keynote speaker Fr. Richard McBrien spoke on "The Spirituality of Work" in his presentation. Referring to Pope John Paul II's Encyclical on work, *Laborem Exercens*, he quoted the Holy Father: "Workers are Co-Creators with God when they are performing the act of work. We then have a responsibility with God to bring this world to perfection. Work takes on a new meaning and has been raised to a much higher dignity as something meaningful, necessary, fulfilling and in the design of God's will for us. "

Father Ed Malloy, CSC of Notre Dame followed Fr. McBrien's presentation with a talk on the ethics of the workplace. He emphasized that as Christians we bring high values and standards to the workplace, and that we should never compromise these for the sake of personal gain.

Rather, asserted Fr. Malloy, all should work for changes in the workplace to give work the dignity it deserves.

Father Oliver Williams and Dr. John Houk presented case histories on tensions at work; how workplaces are becoming more and more impersonal, and how we as Christians are called to change this trend and keep the personal touch in work. Management has an obligation to the worker to provide the right kind of atmosphere and security. Deacons in attendance examined several histories on how to deal with these tensions without having to give up Christian values.

Msgr. Ernest Fiedler, Executive Director of the BCPD Secretariat presented twelve assumptions as a base for a revision of the *1971 Guidelines for the Diaconate Training Programs in the U.S.*, a process which may take up to two years for completion. It is anticipated that diaconal communities will have a chance to provide input and review these guidelines. He challenged deacons to resist a creeping trend toward mediocrity; this can become a reality, particularly in the older diaconate programs. All must be aware of this and work toward the elimination of this trend. He said "each of us must look over his own life and see if he is satisfied with doing less than a professional job and being satisfied with doing little or nothing in the service of the Church -- as an ordained servant of the Lord."

Father Patrick Sullivan told the attending deacons and their wives how impressed he was with their diaconate ministry. He presented a wrap-up of the 1982 institute on a positive note, challenging the deacons to attain new heights. He said his greatest challenge was for them to be men of vision and creativity. "Create new ministries as well as making the old ministries more creative and meaningful," he said, "many of our training programs do not address this great challenge of being creative. Certainly, creativity seeks new ways of serving people as well as discovering the needs of the Church," he concluded.

### **1983**

The Ninth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continual Education (NDICE) was held August 3-6, 1983, at Notre Dame University. *The Deacon as a Prophetic Minister* was the conference theme.

Deacon Stanley Gogol of the Toledo diocese was Program Chairman and Deacon Jim Sonnenberg of the Cincinnati archdiocese was chairman of the liturgical program.

Presenters at the 1983 NDICE included Fr. Carroll Stuhlmueller who spoke on “the prophets”. Father Eugene LaVerdiere had presentations on “the challenge of the prophet in today’s world” and “prayer and dynamic servanthood.”

Father James Mello spoke on “homiletics” and Deacon Josh Alvarez spoke on “the deacon as prophet.” Deacon Jim Gillies spoke on “stress management.”

## **1984**

The Tenth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE ) was held August 1-4, 1984 at Notre Dame. Theme of this year’s conference was *The Diaconate—A Bridge to Service.*”

In supporting this theme, the concepts of “ gifts” and “paths” were developed. Each person who attended was encouraged and helped to discern their gifts, evaluating and using these gifts as paths and bridges of service to individuals who are part of the people of God.

The conference program was coordinated and guided by Dr. David Miro and his staff from Loyola University in Chicago. Also participating was Dr. Suzanne Kelly from the Center for Pastoral and Social Ministry at the University of Notre Dame.

Msgr. Ernest Fiedler, Executive Director of the BCPD Secretariat spoke and focused on current developments of the diaconate in the United States. Attendees at the conference participated in a panel discussion on the current state of the U.S. diaconate.

## **1985**

*Visions into New Diaconal Ministry* was the theme of the Eleventh Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE ) held July 31-August 3 at Notre Dame University. Deacon Steve Landregan of Dallas, Texas was the keynote speaker and told deacons “their dreams must become their reality.” Deacons were invited to share their visions and dreams for the diaconate at the opening session.

Presenters at this year’s NDICE and their topics were:

*Diaconate Leadership—Cutting Edge of Ministry*, presented by Deacon Gary Aitchson and his wife Kay. This presentation touched on the basic concepts of leadership in Christian Ministry.

*Pastoral Patterns from a Family Perspective*, presented by Deacon Ernest Nosari, which explored, discussed and evaluated patterns of family needs in diaconate ministry.

*Discipleship—Prayer and Forming the Spirit*, presented by Deacon Reinhart Wessing and his wife Rita. This presentation delved into prayer, its forms and uses, and into spiritual growth for the deacon and his family.

*Money/Talent ( Deacon Tools)—Use ‘Em or Lose ‘Em*, presented by Deacon Milt Folds and his wife Bev. This explored potential opportunities for the diaconate as it could relate to money needs and possible ways to achieve those needs.

*Outreach to Young Adults—Keep the Fires Burning*, presented by Deacon Joe Cascino and his wife Donna, which explored how deacons could reach out to young adults.

*Healing the Wounded Minister*, presented by Deacon Jim Young , Deacon John Pistone and his wife Rae, and Deacon Bill Krueger and his wife Pat. This topic explored how deacons and their wives could more effectively care for their mental, spiritual and physical well-being.

Bishop John Kinney, BCPD Chairman addressed the deacons on Friday evening and said the future looks bright for the permanent diaconate, which now had nearly 8,000 deacons in the U.S. He said it is imperative that deacons work with priests and bishops, as well as lay ministers, in a collaborative manner if their work is to be successful. Deacon Samuel Taub, Executive Director of the BCPD Secretariat, gave a report on the Revised Guidelines for the Permanent Diaconate, and said the Guidelines would play a key role in diaconate programs in the future.

At the NDICE business session, Deacon John Dimeo was elected NDICE President, succeeding Deacon Hosea Alexander. Deacon John Pistone was elected Vice-President; Deacon Thaddeus May, Secretary and Deacon Linard Harper, Treasurer. Dates for the 1986 NDICE were announced for August 6-9, at Notre Dame.

## **1986**

Deacons from 25 states attended the Twelfth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDiCE ), August 6-9,1986 at Notre Dame. One hundred twenty deacons and wives attended this year's institute, which had a theme of *The Deacon and the Challenges of the Church*.

Program Chairman Deacon Elroy Bonerz said the theme was an outgrowth of the 1985 institute, when BCPD Chairman Bishop John Kinney challenged the deacons to explore and

come to a clearer vision of their ministry. This year's program began on Wednesday with Deacon Sam Taub, Executive Director of the BCPD Secretariat giving the keynote address on "The State of the Diaconate." He noted that since the restored diaconate is only 18 years old in this country, the U.S. bishops are still carefully examining it, and with the large number of deacons the direction of the questions and answers to those questions is changing from the initial projections. That being the case, he said his BCPD Secretariat office plans to update the recently completed study of the permanent diaconate.

The Thursday program focused on the sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders, with a panel discussion led by Methodist minister Rev. Hal Edwards and his wife, active in ecumenism and spiritual direction in the Chicago area. Although the discussion was psychological, the lesson presented was that deacons and their wives must accept themselves and those they serve as they are, not necessarily as the way the deacon and wife want them to be.

On Friday, Fr. Thomas Koebel addressed the challenge of "the Mystery of the Church, Its Nature and Mission." His insight was that the ordained deacon is the necessary sacramental sign of diaconia in a church of diaconal ministry founded by Christ who came to serve, not to be served.

On Saturday, Tim Charek, Associate Director of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin diaconate office addressed the challenge of "serving the Church in the Real World." After noting sociological observations of trends in the Church, he commented on the deacon's charisma of marriage related to diaconate ministry, and on the ambiguity of the clerical monopoly versus the deacon's essential clerical state but existential lay existence. He also raised the problems of competition of paid lay ministers with unsalaried deacons.

## **1987**

The Thirteenth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education(NDICE) was held August 12-15, 1987 at Notre Dame University, in South Bend, Indiana. Theme of the conference was *The Scriptural Affirmation of the Deacon as:*

<i>(Past)</i>	<i>Minister</i>	<i>(Father )</i>
<i>(Present)</i>	<i>Role Model</i>	<i>(Son )</i>
<i>(Future )</i>	<i>An Enabler</i>	<i>(Spirit )</i>

Attending this conference was Bishop William Skylstad, new Chairman of the Bishops Committee on the Permanent Diaconate. Also attending was Sr. Eileen Tierney ,CND, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Permanent Diaconate Directors (NAPDD). Deacon Elroy Bonerz was Program Director.

## **1988**

The Fourteenth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) was held August 10-13, 1988 at Notre Dame, Indiana. The theme of the 1988 conference was *We Are the Servants of the Lord* , from the September 19,1987 address of Pope John Paul II to deacons in Detroit.

Keynote speaker for this year's NDICE was Deacon Connie Ferriola, new Executive Director of the BPCD Secretariat. Other speakers were Rev. Salvino Briffa, SJ and Rev. Edward Grosz.

Bishop William Skylstad, Chairman of the Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate (BCPD ) also spoke to attendees. He celebrated the closing Mass and installed the NDICE officers for the coming year.

## **1989**

Deacons from 23 states and the Virgin Islands attended the Fifteenth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE ), August 2-5, 1989 at Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Theme of this year's conference was *The Changing Church, The Deacon's Future*.

Keynote speaker was Bishop William McManus, who spoke on "The State of the U.S. Catholic Church." Bishop McManus is the retired bishop of the Fort Wayne/South Bend, Indiana diocese.

Msgr. Richard McGuinness, from the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey spoke about "the future of the priesthood." He said the main issues which will impact the ministry of deacons because of anticipated changes in the priesthood are:

--Priestless parishes

-Church-employed deacons

- Full acceptance of the deacon by his Ordinary
- Increased need for full-time deacons
- Financial compensation for deacons
- Uneven workloads of deacons within the parish
- Paid professional staffs
- Deacons being pulled into presbyteral roles
- Consolidation of parishes

How can we prepare ourselves as deacons and wives of deacons to respond most effectively to these changes ? Msgr. McGuinness said we do it with an increased emphasis on:

- Education
- Collaboration
- Open and honest communication
- Recognizing and accepting the risks that go along with change
- Investing time and energy to work toward being a part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Msgr. McGuinness said deacons “need to be supportive of priests, and help to build personal relationships with them.” He said diaconal and priestly formation programs need to emphasize the reality of priestless parishes, and accept ourselves as we really are, with both strengths and limitations. “As deacons, we need to offer our professional and our spiritual talents to the service of the Church, and when possible, deacons and their wives should work as ministry teams.”

Lucien Roy, Director of the Office of Ministry Formation for the Archdiocese of Chicago spoke of the future of the laity as related to diaconal ministry. He said the laity are seeing paid professionals and a reduced number of volunteers; increased stress and tension for all those involved in ministry, a lack of structured training programs for the laity, and no clear definition of ministerial roles.

How can we as deacons prepare ourselves as deacons and wives of deacons to respond most effectively to these changes ? “Be flexible; learn to be an enabler of the laity and do all we can to help the laity reach their full potential. Get to know ourselves; use time management techniques and practice good balance in all areas of our lives,” he said.

In his presentation on “the future of the diaconate”, Bishop Skylstad said “all of us within the diaconal community should take our need for spiritual direction seriously. We really need to look hard at how we can continue to develop that sense of paternity and communion among ourselves. We need to gather together regularly to share events and experiences in our lives,” he said.

Changes that Bishop Skylstad said will impact the future of the diaconate include:

- Workloads
- Aging and retirement
- The need for more effective ministry to minorities
- The need to meet the financial and spiritual needs of deacons.

How should we prepare ourselves and our ministry as deacons to most effectively respond to these changes? Bishop Skylstad suggested:

- Support groups
- Continuing education
- Being proactive toward change , and not reactive
- Attend area and/or regional meetings
- Create peer evaluations
- Delegate more to the laity
- Embrace the ministry of saying “no”
- Attend spiritual days of renewal and retreats as couples if possible
- Assess priorities frequently

Bishop Skylstad said “we need to make our needs known to the diocese and the national church offices. We need to actively recruit potential diaconal and candidates for formation, and develop visibility among the people. We also need to promote more effective dialogue on a national level, and deacons need to listen to the success stories of other deacons.”

### **1990**

The theme of the Sixteenth Annual National Diaconate Institute of Continuing Education (NDICE ) was *The Challenge: Responding to the Call, Living the Call, Calling Others*. The conference was held August 1-4,1990 on the campus of Notre Dame, in South Bend, Indiana.

Chairman of the 1990 NDICE was Deacon William Krueger from Chicago.

### **1991**

Deacon William Krueger was Program Chairman of the Seventeenth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE ) held July 31-August 3, 1991 at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. Theme of this year’s conference was *Conflict Resolution in Ministry*, as it relates to family, job and ministry for the deacon and his family.

Addressing conflict resolution in the family was Fr. James Lloyd, director of the Graduate Division of Pastoral Counseling at Iona College in New York. Deacon Henry Libersat spoke on conflict resolution on the job. Other speakers included Fr. Benedict Groeschl, CFR and Deacon Ken Piechowski.

Archbishop Patrick Flores, Chairman of the Bishops’ Committee on the Permanent Diaconate (BCPD ) celebrated the closing Mass and addressed those in attendance at the final session on Saturday evening.

### **1992**

The Eighteenth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE ) was August 5-8, 1992 on the campus of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Theme of this year’s conference was *Maximizing Your Effectiveness as a Deacon*.

The main presenters for the 1992 conference were Dr. Evelyn Whitehead, a developmental psychologist, and her husband James, a pastoral theologian. The Whiteheads focused on the maturing ministry of the permanent diaconate, how deacons have been effective and how they will be a part of the Church of the future.

Another presenter was Fr. Frank Silva, President-elect of the National Association of Permanent Diaconate Directors, who spoke to attendees about the effectiveness of deacons from his experience as a parish minister and a vocations director.

Archbishop Patrick Flores, Chairman of the Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate (BCPD ) spoke about the changes that are happening nationwide in the rapidly-growing permanent diaconate. He celebrated the closing Mass at the conference.

### **1993**

The Nineteenth Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) was held August 1-4, 1993 at Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana. Theme of this year's conference was *Celebrate the Call—The Struggle, The Reality and The Promise*. This year's conference marked the 25<sup>th</sup> (Silver ) Anniversary of the permanent diaconate in the United States.

This was also the first time that the annual conference started on a Sunday and ended on a Wednesday. The featured speakers were Deacon Bob and Joyce Herta, who spoke on "the struggle," witnessing their journey since entering the diaconate. Their journey, though a struggle, was presented by Bob and Joyce in a positive way.

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton from Detroit spoke on "the reality,"; not only the reality of the diaconate but of service to the Church. Bishop Dale Melzek of Gary, Indiana, chairman of the Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate, brought his insights to the conference on "the promise", speaking very frankly to attendees and answering many questions.

There were 11 workshops at this year's conference, presented by deacons and their wives who are professionals in their ministry. Workshops included those on AIDS-Support, Bereavement, Street People, Mental Health, Young Adults, Marketplace Ministry, Substance Abuse, Prison Ministry, Divorce, Personal Abuse and Cultural Diversity.

This year's conference was during the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of the permanent diaconate in the United States. At the business meeting, Deacon William Krueger was re-

elected for a two-year term as NDICE president. Deacon Dan Daily was elected vice-president; Deacon Kevin Leo was elected secretary and Deacon Hank Babin, treasurer.

## **1994**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) was held July 31-August 4 at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. It was once again an informative educational and fun-filled session for deacons and their families.

NDICE President Deacon Bill Krueger welcomed deacons and their wives from all across the United States, including attendees from as far away as Alaska, Hawaii and California. Bishop Robert Morneau of Green Bay, Wisconsin was the keynote speaker addressing the theme of *Led by the Spirit*.

Other speakers included the noted retreat master Fr. Jim Serrick, SJ and Sheila Murphy, as well as special presentations by the National Association of African-American Catholic Deacons and the Native American Deacon Association.

## **1995**

The largest number of deacons and wives ever to attend the annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) met July 30-August 2 at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. Over 350 deacons and wives attended this 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, the oldest continuing education institute for permanent deacons in the United States. Theme of this year's conference was *Parable of the Deacon: Telling, Living, Celebrating the Story*.

Mary Jo Copeland, a Minneapolis, Minnesota mother of 12 who founded the "Sharing and Caring Hands Center" in downtown Minneapolis in 1985 gave the opening presentation on Sunday evening and challenged deacons to live out the Gospel message in their diaconate ministry and "concentrate on service" in functioning as a deacon. "God provides", she said, and urged deacons to be on the "cutting edge" in service to the needy.

Featured presenter for this year's conference was Fr. John Shea, director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Mundelein Seminary. The author of eight books, Fr. Shea gave two

presentations on Monday morning and two more on Tuesday , each nearly an hour and a half long, and answered questions from attendees after each presentation.

“Why do people ‘hear’ the Word, but don’t like to ‘do’ the Word,” he said, saying it is not enough to just proclaim Jesus’ message but to fulfill it in our ministry. He said the living Christ is trying to find an incarnation at the present time, not just in the distant first century. Much of Fr. Shea’s presentation on the second day focused on forgiveness. In urging deacons to serve the needy, he said “it is easy to kiss the ring of the king, but it is not as easy to kiss the lips of the leper.”

NDICE President Deacon Bill Krueger announced that NDICE was introducing the practice followed by other organizations in going to a president-elect system in electing new officers. Deacon Dan Daily, who was NDICE vice-president was elected president, and Deacon Hank Babin was elected as president-elect, to assume the office of president at the conclusion of the 1996 NDICE, which will be July 28-31, 1996, again at Notre Dame.

Other officers elected included Deacon Joseph Chathaparampil as secretary and Deacon Bob May as treasurer. Deacon Bill Krueger will continue to serve on the NDICE Board as past-president.

Bishop Dale Melczek, chairman of the Bishops’ Committee on the Permanent Diaconate (BCPD) addressed attendees in two sessions on the final day. He expressed his thanks for what the diaconate has done for the Church in this country, and reviewed the three years during which he has served as chairman of the BCPD.

## **1996**

*The Healing Power of Diaconal Ministry in the Family, Society and the Church* was the theme of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE ) held July 28-31 at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. As the conference opened, NDICE President Deacon Dan Daily sent a telegram to Pope John Paul II extending NDICE’s support as the Third Millenium approaches.

Keynote speaker for this year’s conference was Bishop Edward Kmiec of Nashville, Tennessee, chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on the Permanent Diaconate (BCPD). Presenters at this year’s conference included Deacon Don and Christine Paglia, who have coordinated the marriage programs for the Hartford, Connecticut archdiocese and have conducted courses and workshops nationally on family life for twenty years.

With the “deacon in the marketplace” a widely-discussed topic for many years, ACTA Publications editor Gregory F. Augustine Pierce addressed this in his presentation. Author of several books, Pierce has taught courses at DePaul University’s School for New Learning. Married and the father of three, his presentation on the deacon’s role in the marketplace was informative and interesting.

Addressing the deacon and his Church ministry was Msgr. Joseph Roth, diaconate director for the Charleston, SC diocese, who assumed the office of president of the National Association of Diaconate Directors in April. He brought an interesting and unique perspective to the discussion of the deacon and his Church ministry in his presentation.

Elections for NDICE officers were held, and elected as president-elect to assume the office of NDICE president at the 1997 NDICE was Deacon Bill Krauskoff. Deacon Hank Babin will be NDICE president until the 1997 NDICE, with Deacon Dan Daily remaining on the Board as past-president for one more year.

## **1997**

*Diaconal Families: People of Prayer, Disciples, Evangelizers* was the theme of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) held July 27-30 on the campus of Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. Deacon Hank Babin, NDICE president welcomed attendees to this year’s conference.

Keynote speaker was Gerry Faust, former Notre Dame football coach who related many of his experiences as a coach . He said that every day he made a visit to Mary’s shrine on the campus and prayed....he told deacons to pray to help them in their diaconal ministry.

BCPD chairman Bishop Edward Kmiec reported on the just-concluded National Catholic Diaconate Conference and said his office had not yet heard from the Vatican on the 1995 plenaria on the diaconate. He also informed attendees of the recent change regarding the remarriage of deacons whose spouse had died.

Archbishop Patrick Flores of San Antonio was the Monday morning presenter and gave an inspiring talk related to the prayer life of deacons. He said that it is essential that prayer be a part of the deacon’s life, and related how prayer has affected his life and that of many he has come in contact with as a priest and bishop.

Another presenter was Deacon Wyatt Jones, director of the Detroit Archdiocese Office for Ethnic and Urban Concerns, who gave a lively presentation that provided dramatic examples of what deacons should be doing in their ministry.

At the business meeting, elections were held and Deacon Alfred Mitchell of Atlanta, Georgia was elected to the office of president-elect, to assume the presidency of NDICE at the conclusion of next year's NDICE. Deacon William Krauskoff assumed the office of president at the end of this year's conference and will serve as NDICE president for the coming year.

## **1998**

The 1998 National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) meeting was held July 26-29 at Notre Dame University. Theme of this year's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was *Collaboration in Ministry*. NDICE President Deacon Bill Krauskoff opened the meeting and greeted nearly 300 attendees.

Keynote speaker was John Reid who spoke for over two hours on collaboration in ministry. A consultant for both business and church groups, he offered personal reflections to begin his talk and then talked about the need for collaboration in leadership. He said leadership often means nudging people from behind, rather than leading them in front. "The one ministry we all share in is that of Jesus," he said, speaking also of the need for the deacons to be collaborative leaders, sharing their ministry and spoke of the current challenges in diaconate ministry.

Fr. Bill Burkart, a pastor and member of Wintertree Associates spoke on collaborative ministry involving laity, clergy and religious. He said that in ministry, "the less you work with your co-workers, the less you will accomplish in your common mission of ministry." He spoke of the four levels of collaboration, which include co-existence, communication, cooperation and mutuality.

BCPD chairman Bishop Edward Kmiec and BCPD executive director Deacon John Pistone updated developments received from the Vatican and developments on U.S. diaconate projects.

Sr. Andree Fries, CPPS, who has served as an organization consultant for many church groups spoke on Tuesday. The entire day on Wednesday was devoted to workshops on collaborative ministry.

At the Tuesday business session new officers were elected for the office of treasurer and president-elect. Deacon Rudy Wolf was elected president-elect and will assume the presidency of NDICE at the conclusion of next year's NDICE and Deacon Bob May was re-elected treasurer. Deacon Alfred Mitchell from Atlanta, Georgia will serve as NDICE president in the coming year.

## **1999**

NDICE President Deacon Alfred Mitchell welcomed 320 deacons and their wives to the 25th Annual Meeting of the longest-continuous education conference for those in diaconate ministry. It marked a new record for attendance for NDICE, which met July 25-28 at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana.

Theme of the conference was *Proclaiming the Word and Living it* with a focus on preaching the Good News. Opening keynote speaker Deacon Ed Macauley of St. Louis challenged deacons to not only proclaim the Good News but to exemplify it in their lives. "The way we live is the best witness to our faith and to diaconate ministry," said "Easy Ed," well-known for not only his many achievements on the basketball courts in the college and professional ranks but also for his contributions to the Church and the improvement of preaching techniques.

As president of NDICE, Deacon Alfred Mitchell preached the homily at the opening liturgy which was celebrated by Bishop Gerald Kicanas, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate (BCPD). Monday's opening session featured presentations by Bishop Kicanas, BCPD executive director Deacon John Pistone and Msgr. Ted Kraus.

Bishop Kicanas spoke on the theology of the diaconate, centering his message around the meaning of "Church", the power of the baptismal call and the charism of the permanent diaconate. He said "we need to find more ways to express and articulate what diaconate is all about." He made reference to Dorothy Day and said deacons "need to proclaim Christ in our words and actions; it's the best witness of a deacon."

Deacon John Pistone updated attendees on several national diaconate issues, including the project involving the Campaign for Human Development that is being piloted in the Hartford, CT archdiocese. He also spoke of the video conference training program and the new ministry for over-the-road truckers, and called attention to the deacon wives liaison with the BCPD and the next International Diaconate Centre meeting scheduled for Austria in 2001.

Msgr. Ted Kraus updated attendees on the status of the National Directory for deacons and on the National Catholic Diaconate Conference set for 2000 in his diocese of Oakland, California. His presentation was followed by a workshop after Deacon Ed Macauley's second presentation in the evening.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, presentations were given by Fr. Glenn Murray on the deacons in the liturgy and by Sr. Mary Ellen Plummer on preaching and homiletics. Dr. Luann Bachner spoke to the deacon wives on "the Word at our table", and practical workshops were held between the main presentations.

At the business session on Tuesday, Deacon Charlie Brown was elected NDICE secretary and Deacon Ed Sadowski was elected to the office of president-elect, to assume the presidency of NDICE at the conclusion of the 2000 NDICE.

## **2000**

*Evangelization in the Community* was the theme of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE ) conference held July 30-August 2 on the campus of Notre Dame University. Five nationally-known speakers addressed attendees and thanked deacons and their wives for their service to various diaconate ministries and said deacons must "communicate the Good News" about the diaconate itself to those in their parish and community.

NDICE president Deacon Rudy Wolf welcomed attendees at the opening session that followed the early-evening Mass concelebrated by BCPD chairman Bishop Gerald Kicanas and Archbishop John Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the "communications arm" of the Vatican.

Following the opening ceremony, Archbishop Foley directed his message about the importance of communications to attendees and offered many practical suggestions as to how deacons could overcome the communication "gap" that exists in many places.

On Monday, Msgr. Thomas McSweeney, director of The Christophers, had an inspiring and lively presentation on evangelization. Also speaking on Monday was Msgr Frank DeSiano, who directed the Washington, DC project, Parish Based Evangelization. In the evening on Monday, Bishop Kicanas and Deacon John Pistone, BCPD executive director reported on developments on U.S. diaconate ministry. Bishop Kicanas thanked Deacon Pistone for his four years of services as he was retiring as BCPD executive director.

On Tuesday, Deacon Wyatt Jones, a dynamic speaker from Detroit addressed deacons, and Mrs. Dottie Mraz, author of the book “ Ministry and the Family of the Permanent Deacon” addressed the wives session. At the business meeting, Deacon John DeStazio was elected to the office of president-elect and Deacon Ed Kaczmarek was elected NDICE treasurer.

## **2001**

Three hundred deacons and wives attended the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) meeting, July 29- August 1 at Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Theme of the annual continuing education meeting was *The Deacon in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Servant and Leader*.

Keynote speaker was Archbishop Thomas Kelly of the Louisville, Kentucky diocese.....70 deacons and wives from his archdiocese were among the near-record number of attendees. In his presentation, Archbishop Kelly focused on the deacon as servant and leader. He centered his message around four points; the deacon’s holiness, spirituality, evangelization and ministry of charity. He said the deacon’s ministry of charity is foremost in his role as servant and leader.

On Monday, Archbishop Patrick Flores of San Antonio gave an inspiring presentation on the role that deacons are playing in today’s Church and Society. He spoke of personal experiences involving deacons in his own archdiocese and deacons he has known throughout the U.S. and in other countries.

Also speaking on Monday was Fr. James Moroney of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy who addressed several issues related to liturgical changes. His two presentations were followed by afternoon and evening sessions by Louisville Deacon Jim Turner and his wife Annette, who discussed practical issues related to their ministry.

On Monday also, two sessions were held for the wives of deacons attending, and NDICE wives liaison Mrs. Fran Brown introduced the first presenter, Mrs. Rae Pistone. The second session was a work session for the wives and in the third session deacon wives related their stories.

Deacon Bill Ditewig, the first American deacon to be elected to the International Centre for the Diaconate (IDC) Board spoke extensively on Tuesday on the theology of the diaconate. His great

presentation was followed by Fr. Dominic Grassi, a priest of the Chicago archdiocese, who, as one deacon said, “told it like it is.”

On Wednesday, BCPD chairman Bishop Gerald Kicanas and BCPD executive director Deacon Jerry Wilson spoke to the deacons, with much discussion involving viaticum and the subject of deacon evaluations.

At the Tuesday business session, Deacon Gordon Cartwright was elected to the position of president-elect, to assume the presidency of NDICE following next year’s NDICE. Deacon Charlie Brown was re-elected as secretary. Deacon John DeStazio will serve as NDICE president for the coming year.

## **2002**

*The Deacon and Marriage: Exercising Ministry* was the theme of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) held July 28-31 at Notre Dame University, the 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that NDICE was held on the campus of America’s best-known Catholic University.

The national perspective of NDICE was reflected by the fact that more than 300 attendees came from 26 different states plus Canada. NDICE president Deacon John DeStazio welcomed attendees and program chairman Deacon John Bodway introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. William Donovan, author of several books on diaconate spirituality including “The Sacrament of Service: Understanding Diaconal Spirituality” and conducts retreats for deacons and their wives.

The presentations on Monday featured two outstanding speakers. Dr. David Thomas, who has a Ph.D. in systematic and historical theology and an MA in sociology and anthropology, both from Notre Dame, addressed the conference theme in two afternoon sessions. He is an editor, professor, author and co-director of the Bethany Family Institute in Colorado. In the first Monday session, Eugene Kennedy, nationally-known speaker and author recognized for his biography of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin spoke to attendees.

On Tuesday, the business meeting was held in the morning, at which officers for the coming year were elected. Deacon Charlie Brown was elected as president-elect to assume the presidency of NDICE at the conclusion of the 2003 NDICE, and Deacon Ken Mitchell was elected treasurer. Deacon Gordon Cartwright will serve as NDICE president for the coming year and Deacon John DeStazio will serve on the Board as past-president.

In the afternoon on Tuesday, Fr. John Huels spoke on the anointing of the sick and canon law. He is the author of 10 books including "A Canon Law Handbook for Catholic Ministry" and is a consultant to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy." Sandra Iwanski, Associate Director for the Institute in Pastoral Ministries at St. Mary's University in Minnesota and a consultant on parish leadership spoke to deacon wives at their session.

On Wednesday, Deacon Bill Ditewig was the presenter at two sessions. He is the only American on the governing board of the International Diaconate Centre and served as the theological consultant to the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate, assisting in the preparation of the National Directory.

## **2003**

***Our Call as Wife, Deacon and Servant to Justice and Peace*** was the theme of the 29th Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) held July 27-August 3 on the campus of Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana. Three hundred deacons and wives attended the conference which focused on the important contributions of deacons and their wives in ministering to the poor and marginalized.

NDICE President Deacon Gordon Cartwright welcomed this year's attendees on Sunday evening. Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of the Camden, NJ diocese was the opening keynote speaker and spoke of the importance of promoting a culture of integration of immigrants in local parishes. He said information pertaining to immigration is available on the U.S. bishops' website.

Dynamic speaker Vincent Guider stressed the importance of teaching leadership skills to young people. In his audience-participation presentation, he said "we need to have the audacity to pass on the faith to young people."

Deacon Bill Ditewig, executive director of the Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate (BCD) related stories of Vatican Council II. His presentation focused on the idea that the central theme of Vatican II was service. In her presentation, Sandra Iwanski identified the diaconal community as "God's surprise." She said the leaders of Vatican II "never dreamed" that the diaconal community would grow so rapidly and pointed out the many contributions that deacons and their wives make to the Church.

Representing the BCD, Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany, NY said "the core values of the Directory include collaboration, prayer, meditation on the Word and continuing education. He

emphasized the importance of trusting in God's love and said "we must be the source of joy to others." Deacon Charlie Brown of Louisville will be NDICE president for the coming year, with Deacon Leo McBlain as president-elect. It was announced that the 2004 NDICE would be held for the first time at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

## **2004**

***The Deacon and Ministry to the Fractured Family*** was the theme of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE), held for the first time on the campus of Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Two hundred fifty deacons and wives attended the conference held August 1-4.

NDICE president Deacon Charlie Brown welcomed attendees to Xavier and the new Cintas Center where all sessions were held. With everything including meals in the Cintas Center and the dorms very close, attendees expressed their approval of the new meeting place for NDICE. On Sunday evening, Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk of Cincinnati celebrated the opening liturgy and thanked deacons for their service to the Church. He voiced his delight that NDICE was now being held in the Cincinnati Archdiocese.

In the opening session on Sunday evening, Fr. Noah Casey spoke about family systems and their good and bad characteristics. He urged attendees to develop good characteristics and spoke of "hurting families" he has encountered in his priestly ministry, saying that deacons and their wives can do much to help.

On Monday, Fr. James Farrell spoke on ministry to divorced, separated and remarried persons. He outlined the difficulties of relationships for wives, husbands and children when families are split apart and new families are formed. In the afternoon session, Deacon Jim Etter described his personal journey which led him from being an independent businessman to the diaconate and service in prison ministry and providing food for the homeless. Betty Deerwester shared her family's own story in dealing with addictions, and noted the impact that one addicted person can have on the behavior of every family member.

On Tuesday morning, Fr. Paul Scaglione discussed pastoral care for the sick and talked about the Genesaret Retreat where seriously ill persons are brought for a weekend spiritual experience. Wives were addressed at their session by Irene Varley while the NDICE business session was held, which included presentations by Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate (BCD) chairman Bishop Robert Morlino and BCD executive director Deacon Bill Ditewig.

New NDICE officers were elected at the business meeting, with Deacon Clif Perryman and Deacon Bob Rich elected as president-elect and treasurer respectively. They join Deacons Charlie Brown, Ken Mitchell and incoming president Deacon Leo McBlain on the NDICE Board for the coming year. Mrs. Maggie DeStazio continues as wives' representative and Deacon Hank Babin succeeds Deacon Bob May as executive secretary.

On Wednesday morning, Peg Black spoke about the complexities of dealing with the diversity found in parishes today. At the closing Mass, NDICE officers for the coming year were installed by Deacon Bill Ditewig.

## **2005**

Deacon Leo McBlain, president of the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) welcomed three hundred deacons and wives to the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual NDICE Conference held July 17-20 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. ***The Identity of the Contemporary Deacon: Formation and Relationships*** was the theme of the conference, with the opening Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate.

In his opening keynote address, Bishop Campbell welcomed deacons and their wives, noting these were "exciting times" for the diaconate. He said that in the 40 years since it was the decision at Vatican II to re-institute the permanent diaconate, tremendous progress has been made, with the U.S. leading the way with more than half of the world's deacons. He said this past year was highlighted by the promulgation of the National Directory, which will have a "key role" in the future for U. S. deacons.

In his address, Bishop Campbell said it is not a question of "what deacons do" but rather, what "are" deacons, speaking of what he termed the "isness" of deacons. He said the first service of a deacon is his identification with Jesus, speaking of Jesus' manifestation of love for people, culminating with his death on the Cross; "His was a life completely poured out for the other."

On Monday, two outstanding diaconate authorities and authors were featured, with Australian John Collins speaking and referring to his book on the diaconate, saying there are some "competing theologies" of diaconate. He focused much of his presentation on the Gospel of Luke, citing the phrase "yet here am I among you, like the waiter", indicating his preference for

using the word “waiter” rather than “servant.” He said that while the “great ones” of the world “recline at table,” the true disciple “acts like a waiter; he leaves power, wealth and honor behind and gives his all”, something the deacon must do.

On Monday afternoon, Deacon Owen Cummings spoke on the deacon and personal prayer. He said prayer is about “holiness of life.” St. Paul’s letters are “saturated with an awareness of the presence of God---whatever I am doing, wherever I’m at, I’m in the presence of God.” He said that while prayer has a “wonderful therapeutic value”, that’s not the main purpose of prayer. Monday workshops were conducted by Deacons Thomas Baker, Robert Hall and Frank Iannarino. The first full day of NDICE concluded with a plenary presentation by Fr. Anthony Ciorrra on the paschal mystery and deacon identity, followed by a panel discussion.

Deacon Bill Ditewig, executive director of the BCD Secretariat, addressed the first Tuesday session and spoke of the theological foundations of the diaconate, about “kenosis” and “theos” and how they apply to all baptized but especially to the life and ministry of deacons. Workshops were presented by Deacons Leo McBlain, Fr. Godfrey Mullen and Deacon Byron Phillips. On Tuesday afternoon, Deacon James Keating addressed attendees on the moral-spiritual life of the deacon, followed by a repeat of the morning workshops.

At the Tuesday business meeting, Deacon Hal Belcher was elected president-elect and Deacon Gordon Cartwright was elected Secretary. Mrs. Peggy Gallagher was elected to be the NDICE wives’ representative, and the day concluded with a final presentation by Fr. Shawn McKnight. Deacon Clif Perryman will serve as NDICE president for the coming year.

## **2006**

Bishop William Skylstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) was the keynote speaker at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) conference held July 23-26 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Theme of the conference was ***The Deacon as Servant Leader: Theology and Practice.***

In his address to over 300 deacons and wives in attendance, Bishop Skylstad spoke on the idea of leadership of the deacon in today’s Church. He noted in his opening remarks that he had served in the past as chairman of the Bishops’ Committee on the Diaconate(BCD) and “in the years since Vatican II, I’ve watched diaconal ministry grow around the world, but especially in the United States.”

Citing examples in his own diocese of Spokane, Washington, he said the growth of the diaconate is reflected in that “we now have just about as many deacons as we have active diocesan priests. Similar stories can be told around our country.”

Focusing on the conference theme of the deacon as a servant leader, Bishop Skylstad said “the call to Holy Orders calls deacons first and foremost to be men of service. Men of service to God, and to the community. Deacons are leaders through example,” he added.

“ Most deacons minister by their leadership within the workplace. They minister by their example of living the Gospel in an environment that often is not conducive to Gospel living—in fact, its sometimes antithetical to Christian life,” he said. “To be effective ministers of the Gospel, we must seek that personal balance of life that enables all the parts to work together. We have our families. Then, we have our employment. Then, our ministry,” he said.

In his concluding remarks, Bishop Skylstad thanked the deacons for their service to the Church and their communities. Other presenters at this year’s NDICE included Bishop Frederick Campbell, BCD chairman; Deacon Bill Ditewig, BCD executive secretary, Fr. Jim Schmitmeyer, Fr. Patrick Manning and many deacons and wives who addressed the conference theme\_

NDICE president Deacon Clif Perryman presided at the business session at which Deacon Bob Markert was elected president-elect. Deacon Hal Belcher will serve as NDICE president for the coming year, assisted by the NDICE Board comprised of Deacons Clif Perryman, Gordon Cartwright and Bob May. Deacon Hank Babin serves as executive secretary and Mrs . Peggy Gallagher is the NDICE wives’ representative.

## **2007**

President Deacon Hal Belcher welcomed another large group of deacons and their wives to the 33rd Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) from July 20-23 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. ***Spirituality: The Foundation of Servant Leadership*** was the theme of this longest continuous education session for deacons and their families.

For over 30 years, attendees have profited from great presentation by speakers and practical workshop sessions, and this year’s conference was no exception. The opening keynote presentation was given by Steubenville, Ohio Bishop R. Daniel Conlon on Sunday evening, who was introduced by NDICE president Deacon Hal Belcher.

On Monday morning, the Rev. Anthony Ciorra, dean of the Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education at Fordham University presided at the second plenary session. This was followed by workshop sessions led by Fr. Ciorra and by Deacon Bill Ditewig. In Monday's afternoon session, Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate (BCD) chairman Bishop Frederick Campbell of Columbus, Ohio spoke on the Eucharist as the center of servant leadership.

Sister Anne Bryan Smolling, CSJ gave the first plenary session on Tuesday on spirituality and theology of the whole person, again followed by workshops led by Sr. Anne and by Fr. James Schmitmeyer. In the afternoon, Deacon John and Rae Pistone spoke on the theme of the spirituality of the deacon couple.

In the fifth plenary session Fr. Ted Ross spoke on prayer as being the core of spirituality. Tuesday's activities concluded with another frolicking "deacon follies", led by Deacon Syl Nitzken. On Wednesday, the concluding plenary session was given by Fr. Patrick Manning, which was followed by the installation of officers by Bishop William Skylstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Also attending this year's NDICE was Bishop Mark Herzog of the Alexandria, Louisiana diocese.

At the Tuesday business meeting Deacon Max Roadruck was elected president-elect, to assume the office of president at the conclusion of next year's NDICE. Serving as NDICE president for the coming year is Deacon Bob Markert. Also on the NDICE Board are Deacon Don Deitz as secretary and Deacon Joe Wenzler who was elected treasurer to fill the vacancy created by the death of Deacon Bob May.

## **2008**

***Deacon as Servant Leader: In Justice to a Wider World*** was the theme of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) conference held July 20-23 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Another large group of several hundred deacons and their wives attended the longest-continuous continuing education session for those in diaconate ministry.

At the opening session following dinner on Sunday evening, NDICE president Deacon Bob Markert welcomed attendees and introduced Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky. The conference theme was addressed by Archbishop Kurtz in his keynote message to attendees, which was followed by questions from the floor and discussion.

An outstanding slate of presenters would follow during the next three days. These included Jack Jezreel, founder of JustFaith Ministries, a conversion-based justice formation program which is a great tool for diaconate ministry. His message focused on how to encourage people of Catholic background to be engaged in outreach and social change.

Other presenters were Fr. Anthony Ciorra of Fordham University and Sr. Liz Bowyer of Cincinnati, who spoke about Sr. Dorothy Stang, a twenty-first century martyr. Fr. Rob Waller spoke about the refugee situation in the Holy Land, and Dr. Brian Reynolds, chancellor of the Louisville archdiocese discussed canonical and civil liability issues affecting those in ordained ministry.

Following morning prayer on Monday, a plenary session of youth and pluralism was presented, followed by workshops which were repeated in the afternoon. A second plenary session followed the mid-morning Mass, focusing on ministry and liabilities. In the afternoon a third plenary session on urban justice issues concluded the day's educational program.

Tuesday's program featured more outstanding plenary session and workshops, and in the evening the popular "deacon follies" continued the NDICE tradition of "mixing fun with diaconal ministry sharing." At the business meeting in the afternoon, officers for the coming year were elected to assist incoming president Deacon Max Roadruck. The NDICE Board will consist of Deacons Bob Markert, Hal Belcher, Don Deitz and Joseph Wenzler. Also serving on the Board are executive secretary Deacon Hank Babin and wives' representative Mrs. Peggy Gallagher.

On Wednesday, attendees were privileged to once again hear Bishop William Skylstad of Spokane, Washington, who celebrated the final Mass and installed officers for the coming year.

## **2009**

**NDICE president Deacon Max Roadruck welcomed 130 deacons and wives from across the country to the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual National Meeting of the oldest continuous continuing education session for deacons and their families. With a theme of *Scripture: the Foundation for Diakonia*, Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio was the site of the meeting, held July 19-22.**

**The conference opened with a Mass celebrated by Cincinnati Coadjutor Archbishop Dennis Schnurr. The keynote address was given by Fr. Thomas Kalita, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Olney, Maryland. He presented three models from the books of Genesis, Exodus and Leviticus of how scripture illustrates ways for those in ministry to be of service to God's people.**

He said “we think of Leviticus as being a lot of legal material, which it certainly is, but why does God give legal material ? To serve as a guide for how his people are to treat one another to maintain covenant, when God began to call the prophets to preach in his name, to preach his message, what did they use for their basis but the laws of the covenant? Deacons who are called to proclaim God’s word now to the liturgical assembly must consider the words of the new covenant, specifically the Gospels, as their basis for preaching. We don’t preach our own message, we preach what God spoke years ago.”

Among other conference presenters was Bishop Octavi Cisneros of Brooklyn, who noted how the Christian understanding of diaconal service is “to give of oneself for the good of another. The ultimate gift of service to one another is the gift of self and that is what Christ did on the cross. That conquering of death on the cross was a moment of service. The diaconate was born in Christ’s self gift on the cross and deacons are called to put this experience on the cross into practice in their daily lives and ministries,” he said.

Other speakers at this year’s NDICE included Fr. Timothy Schehr, professor of biblical studies at the Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary Seminary, Bishop Robert Morneau of Green Bay, Wisconsin and Dr. John Pilch.

## **2010**

*The Deacon: Icon of Jesus the Servant* was the theme of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) conference held July 18-21 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Attending were 268 deacons and wives from 28 states who heard an outstanding team of presenters address the conference theme.

Following the opening conference remarks by NDICE President Deacon Bob Markert, keynote speaker Deacon Greg Kandra spoke on the evangelization opportunities available to diaconate ministry in this “digital age.”

On Monday morning, Fr. Brendan Moss was the presenter for the first plenary session, which was followed by his workshop. His lively presentation received the highest rating of any speaker. He spoke on “Jesus as Servant, Catholic Letters of James.” In the afternoon on Monday, Deacon Bill Ditewig was the presenter for the second plenary session which was followed by a workshop that gave attendees the opportunity to participate. Pastor Joe Phelps of the Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky presided at the final plenary session on Monday afternoon.

On Tuesday morning, Fr. Sean Martin from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis gave the day's first plenary session which was followed by a workshop. After Mass and lunch, Fr. Rick Nieberding, pastor of St. Augustine Church, Minster, Ohio spoke on domestic violence.

Bishop William Skylstad was the presenter at the Wednesday morning plenary session. This was followed by the closing Mass at which Bishop Skylstad installed the NDICE officers for the coming year.

## **2011**

Deacons and wives from 25 states attended the 37th Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) session held July 17-20 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme for this year's NDICE, which is the longest-continuing education program for deacons in the United States, was ***Deacon: Herald of the Gospel, by Word and Action.***

After NDICE President Deacon Pat Wright welcomed more than 250 deacons and wives, he introduced this year's keynote speaker, Bishop Ronald Gainer from the diocese of Lexington, Kentucky. In his presentation, Bishop Gainer addressed the theme of this year's gathering, setting the pace for another great year of plenary sessions and workshops. Mass was celebrated each day, with Bishop Gainer serving as the celebrant on Sunday evening.

Back by popular demand, Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB from Saint Meinrad Archabbey was the presenter for the Monday morning plenary session, during which he followed the conference theme that emphasized "Word and action" must be a part of every deacon's ministry. Fr. Brendan spoke of the "four R's" when he said deacons read the Word and reflect on it....he said they need to "rest with the Word" and also have reverence for the Word. Fr. Brendan then gave an introduction to Benedictine spirituality: "obedience---to family and Church---at its heart is about listening to God, to self and to others. He spoke about stability...."make your home in Christ." He also spoke of "conversation---the view of our humanity, "knowing we can fail, and admitting it", and, finally, about chastity and poverty.

Following lunch, Deacon Bill Ditewig, recognized as one of the foremost theologians on the diaconate, had a dynamic presentation discussing the theology behind the upcoming changes in the Roman Missal. He reviewed past changes in the Missal and gave in-depth explanations for the changes that will take effect this Advent. A workshop followed his plenary presentation, followed by evening prayer and dinner.

An added “plus” for this year’s NDICE was the after-dinner presentation by Deacon Greg Hall of Houston. Using many on-site pictures, he related the role his drilling supply company had in the rescue of the 33 trapped Chilean miners in 2010. This presentation was one of the most dramatic given at any NDICE, and he spoke of his diaconal ministry often during his presentation.

On Tuesday morning, Fr. David Garcia, a representative of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) was the plenary session presentator. He spoke of “global solidarity” and the need for faith and justice in the world. “We are all missionaries”, he said, speaking of the role that deacons can and should have in their diaconal ministry. He addressed the consequences of globalization for developing countries.....”there are many negatives,” he said, “especially affecting the poorest countries.” Recalling the earthquake and its effects on Haiti, he said we must be willing to help those in Haiti and in other developing countries. Speaking of the unequal distribution of resources, he noted “the three wealthiest individuals in the United States have more wealth than do the combined assets of the 48 poorest countries in the world.” This session was followed by a workshop on preaching by CRS representative, Deacon Bill Hampton. After lunch, Dr. Jane Thibault from the University of Louisville spoke on her work on gerontology. Her presentation concluded with a prayer for “graceful aging.”

The annual NDICE business session took place following Dr. Thibault’s presentation. NDICE President Deacon Pat Wright chaired a discussion during which a major change in the by-laws was adopted by attendees; effective immediately, the term of office for president will be two years instead of one.

Wednesday featured the return of retired Bishop William Skylstad, who has been a popular and captivating presentator for many past NDICE sessions. After another excellent plenary session, Bishop Skylstad was the celebrant at the closing Mass, during which he installed the NDICE officers for the coming year.

## **2012**

For its 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, NDICE provided another successful continuing education conference. Meeting July 15-18 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, nearly 300 deacons, candidates and their wives benefitted from outstanding presentations and workshops. The theme of the 2012 NDICE was ***Deacon: Bridge to God’s People.***

The conference focused on addressing the many different areas where today’s deacon acts as a “bridge.” These included marriage, social justice, evangelization, bereavement counseling,

hospitality, ministry to immigrants, prayer and spirituality, and promoting the right to life. During the four-day conference, lively and inspirational presentations were followed by participation in workshops. NDICE gave all attending a great opportunity to enrich their diaconal ministry.

On Sunday afternoon, Bishop Ronald Gainer of Lexington, Kentucky celebrated the opening Mass in Xavier University's Bellarmine Chapel. Following dinner, NDICE President Patrick Wright welcomed attendees and introduced Bishop Gainer, who set the tone for the following days with his keynote address.

On Monday morning, Deacon Bill Ditewig spoke on marriage, including a reflection on the USCCB document "Always Our Children." After a special Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, under her title of "Our Lady of Einsiedeln", Fr. Brendan Moss from St. Meinrad Archabbey offered a lively and informative presentation on how essential the Word is in helping deacons to be a "bridge." Next, Annette Turner, wife of a Louisville deacon, spoke of how deacons can serve as a bridge in a culturally diverse society. Concluding the Monday program, Fr. David Garcia from Catholic Relief Services explored how deacons and wives of deacons could be a "bridge" for those beyond our borders.

The first session on Tuesday morning was given by Shayne Duvall, speaking on evangelization and this was followed by a thoughtful reflection on preaching by Fr. Peter Fegan, OP. Following lunch, Dr. Emily Cash looked at the many ways that deacons and wives can be a real "bridge" in these tough economic times. After her presentation, she had a special address to the wives present while the deacons and candidates in attendance took part in the business meeting that is a part of every NDICE conference. On Tuesday evening, the annual banquet was followed by another hilarious "deacon follies", giving attendees a chance to show off their "talents." Deacon Hank Babin, a.k.a. "Boudreaux", served as Master of Ceremonies which included offering his own unique Cajun humor.

Bishop William Skylstad, attending his seventh consecutive NDICE, was the Wednesday morning presenter. He was the celebrant of the closing Mass, during which he installed NDICE officers for the coming year.

## **2013**

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) was an outstanding success as nearly 300 deacons, deacon candidates and their wives met July 21-24 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme of this year's conference was ***Deacon: Teacher of the Faith by Word and Deed***. Diaconal ministry with a focus on the catechetical and teaching mission of the deacon took center-stage.

Following the opening conference Mass on Sunday afternoon celebrated by Bishop Joseph Binzer from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, keynote speaker Daniel Mulhall, a national leader in catechesis, provided attendees with a great start to this year's conference.

On Monday, Mulhall fleshed out the main themes of his keynote presentation as he spoke at two morning sessions. Deacon Thomas Winninger, a nationally-known author and motivational speaker helped us all to look at our role as teachers of the faith with new eyes as he gave two electrifying presentations on Monday afternoon. The final session in the afternoon was given by Fr. Joseph Merkt. He spoke about his experiences when he attended the Second Vatican Council as a seminary student in 1963. He shared an insider's view of the workings of Vatican II, noting this was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council.

On Tuesday morning, Dr. Sean Reynold and Mrs. Colleen Gerke, both involved in the "Strong Catholic Families" initiative, presented the findings of national research regarding the passing on of faith to our children. The second half of their presentation concentrated on practical strategies for transforming sacramental ministry through the involvement and empowerment of families.

Dr. Patricia Hughes, director of the Dallas, Texas Office of Liturgy and Worship, presented two sessions on Tuesday afternoon. Her insights on the importance of environment and music in making connections with people of faith opened the eyes of many attendees. Deacon's wives gathered separately with Mrs. Gerke later Tuesday afternoon. At the same time as the wives' session, deacons held the annual business meeting of NDICE. During that meeting Deacon Bill Davis was re-elected for another two-year term as NDICE secretary, and attendees spoke of the great progress made by NDICE in its 39-year existence.

This year's conference was attended by deacons from 23 states, attesting to the fact that NDICE is truly a "national event." Nearly 70 deacons attended this year's conference for the first time. Attending once again was Deacon Lou Weitzel, who once again participated in the "Deacon Follies" with his lively sense of humor and words of wisdom.

## **2014**

More than 360 deacons and wives from 26 states attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE). The conference was held July 20-23 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio and the theme of this anniversary session was ***Forty Years of Service: Continuing the Call.***

Bishop Joseph Binzer of Cincinnati celebrated Sunday evenings opening Mass and outgoing NDICE President Deacon Jeff Hall welcomed attendees, including 50 deacons who were attending their first conference. Deacon Greg Kandra, editor of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) award winning publication "ONE" got the conference off to a great start with his presentation.

On Monday, Kandra provided attendees many helpful ideas for their preaching ministry. He especially urged making use of modern media for their mission of proclaiming the Word. Also speaking on Monday was Deacon Thomas Winninger, a motivational speaker for many major business groups. The day's activities concluded with a presentation by Daniel Mulhall, a national catechetical advisor who is the author of several books and is a recognized authority in the field of catechesis.

Following Mass on Tuesday morning, Matthew Kelly gave an inspiring presentation exploring the lack of engagement among Catholics. More than four million have attended his presentations in fifty countries. He is the founder of "The Dynamic Catholic Institute" to research why Catholics engage or disengage. He gave sobering statistics about the lack of attendance at Mass, not only in the United States but in countries throughout the world. The final presentation on Tuesday morning was given by Sr. Lois Paha, O.P., Director of Formation and Pastoral Services for the diocese of Tucson, Arizona. On Tuesday afternoon, the NDICE business session was held, as well as the session for wives attending this conference.

Bishop William Skylstad, retired bishop of Spokane, Washington gave the Wednesday morning presentation. He spoke about the past, present and future of the Church and the diaconate, and reminded deacons and their wives that they have been part of a truly remarkable period of Church history. "You have seen the very beginning and rapid growth of the permanent diaconate, and today there are more than 40,000 deacons world-wide," he said. At the concluding Mass of the conference, Bishop Skylstad formally installed the NDICE officers for the coming year.

## **2015**

**The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) met July 19-22 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. *Deacons: Living in and Ministering to the Domestic Church* was the theme for this year's NDICE, which is the longest continuous education conference for U.S. permanent deacons.**

NDICE President Deacon John Gerke welcomed another tremendous gathering of deacons and their wives who came from 26 states and included many who were attending their first NDICE conference . Following his opening remarks, Deacon Gerke introduced keynote speaker Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, who is President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Archbishop Kurtz was celebrant of the opening conference Mass, with Cincinnati Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Binzer as concelebrant.

A lively and informative presentation by Dr. Timothy Hogan opened the Monday program. An accomplished speaker and licensed psychologist, Dr. Hogan spoke of his background, growing up as the only son in a family that also included his six sisters. In this year with the emphasis on family life, he emphasized that marriage is the foundation of healthy families, and said healthy families “grow” healthy kids....and healthy families live from a spiritual core. Married and the father of three, Hogan has focused his energy on helping people create and sustain passionate marriages and healthy families.

Following the two Monday morning presentations by Dr. Hogan, Dr. Brad Wilcox opened the Monday afternoon program . Director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia, he is a leading writer and researcher on family-related matters, focusing on marriage, fatherhood and cohabitation, especially on the ways that family structure, civil society and and culture influence the quality and stability of family life in the United States. His present project is exploring the contribution that families make to the economic welfare of individuals and societies. Many wives attended this year’s NDICE with their deacon husbands, and a lively question-answer period concluded his two Monday afternoon sessions.

Memphis, Tennessee Diocesan Diaconate Director, Deacon Jeff Drzycimski was the presenter for the last Monday presentation. He is the creator and host of the nationally syndicated radio show *The Catholic Café*, which seeks to “serve up” the truths of Catholicism in a conversational, non-confrontational style while sharing a cup of coffee with guests in a café setting. Deacon Drzycimski and his wife Bess are the parents of nine children, and he serves as director of religious education for St. Louis Catholic Church in Memphis.

After the informative and educational opening day presentations, attendees were again treated to a trademark of every NDICE program, the hilarious *Deacon Follies*. The “actors” humor was great , and their entertaining skits and musical renditions was enjoyed by everyone. Once again, this year’s *Follies* was emceed by Deacon Hank Babin, better known as “Boudreaux”, and Hank’s Cajun-language stories were a fitting ending to an entertaining evening at an outstanding opening day at NDICE.

On Tuesday, Rev. George Wilson, SJ opened the morning program with his presentation that focused on clericalism. Father Wilson said that while deacons are clergy, they aren't the "only clergy", pointing out that there is an academic clergy (teachers, etc.), a legal clergy (lawyers, etc.); a medical clergy (doctors, nurses) and a public safety clergy (police, etc). He noted that each "clergy" has their "laity", and they interact with their respective laity.

With the focus on family during this year of the family, youth were not forgotten as David and Amber Lapp followed Father Wilson with a very informative presentation based on their interviews with over one hundred young adults, about how young adults are forming families and thinking about marriage. Their research on youth has been hailed as "some of the best fine-grained work on the down-and-out young working class." The Lapps are Research Fellows at the Institute for Family Studies, and they are currently writing a book based on their research. Many questions and comments from attendees were interspersed in their presentation.

The final Tuesday morning presentation was by John Michael Talbot, and his lively presentation that included music and singing was enthusiastically received by attendees who had looked forward to his presentation. Internationally known and appreciated, his message that "all things are possible with God" came through live and clear, and left everyone looking forward to his evening concert, a special feature of this year's NDICE.

Following lunch, the annual NDICE business meeting was held, with President John Gerke thanking his NDICE Board members and brother deacons for making this another terrific NDICE. He noted the tremendous number of attendees, which included many wives, was a reflection on the "healthy state of the U.S. diaconate". He paid special tribute to Deacon Paul McBlain, who now serves as president-elect who will succeed John at the 2016 NDICE, for his efforts with this year's NDICE, and also thanked Deacon Hank Babin, NDICE Executive Secretary, who has attended every NDICE session since first attending in 1979 (36 years !). In the election for NDICE Secretary, Deacon Jim Galbraith from Denton, Texas was elected, and Deacon Gerke thanked Deacon Bill Davis for his past service to NDICE as Secretary. NADD Executive Secretary Deacon Tom Dubois addressed the business meeting with information about the May 27-29, 2016 "Jubilee for Deacons" that will be in Rome, and said ongoing information could be found on the NADD website.

Occurring simultaneously as the business meeting, the wives attending NDICE met, with Barbara Klump, NDICE wives representative chairing the meeting. Colleen Gerke, wife of NDICE President Deacon John Gerke addressed the wives and spoke of the importance role that wives play in their husband's diaconate ministry. Colleen is currently a member of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) and is President of the

NACFLM Board. With Barbara's term expiring this year, Cheri Hall, wife of Louisville, Kentucky Deacon Bob Hall, was elected to succeed her as NDICE wives representative.

The NDICE banquet in the evening was followed by the tremendous concert by John Michael Talbot. He presented his acclaimed "*The Jesus Prayer*" concert which features music and preaching, and it was indeed a highlight of this year's NDICE. On Wednesday, attendees were again privileged to hear Bishop William Skylstad, who celebrated the closing NDICE Mass at which Board members for the coming year were installed, and also spoke at the morning session.

A tremendous NDICE ! And already plans are underway for the 2016 NDICE, which will be held July 17-20, 2016 at Xavier University in Cincinnati. *Deacons: Building Bridges to the Kingdom of God* will be the theme of the 2016 NDICE, and Bridgeport, CT Bishop Frank Caggiano, who is the World Youth Day 2016 liaison for the U.S. Bishops is the keynote speaker. While still early, Deacon Paul McBlain working with NDICE President Deacon John Gerke and the NDICE Board have a great start on the 2016 conference. In addition to Bishop Caggiano as keynote speaker, other speakers confirmed for 2016 are Rev. Gerard McGlone, president of Guest House and Leisa Anslinger, co-director of Catholic Life and Faith.

## 2016

*Deacons: Building Bridges to the Kingdom of God* was the theme of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) that greeted deacons and wives from 24 states on July 17-20 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Keynote speaker Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut challenged the deacons and wives in attendance to "become transparent, and allow Christ to be shown through you....go forward to make a difference."

Following the opening keynote address on Sunday evening by Bishop Caggiano, each of the following days' presenters focused on specific areas of the bridge-building theme. On Monday, Fr. Gerald McGlone, SJ spoke on "bridges to the alienated and diverse" and Leisa Anslinger addressed "bridges to the family."

The Tuesday presentations followed the bridge-building theme with a morning presentation by Fr. Bernard Ezaki on "bridges to the suffering." Other Tuesday presentations were by Amy McEntee on "bridges to young adults" and by Deacon Seigfried Presberry on "bridges to the lost and forgotten. The NDICE business meeting with office elections and the wives meeting

followed the Tuesday presentations. In the evening, following Mass and evening prayer, the nationally-known music composer and liturgist Carey Landry presented an inspiring concert after the banquet.

The 2016 NDICE concluded on Wednesday morning with a presentation by retired Spokane, Washington Bishop William Skylstad, who celebrated the closing conference Mass at which NDICE officers for the coming year were installed.

If the best measure of the “success” is determined by what attendees say AFTER it is over, this was another outstanding NDICE ! Here is the comment from one attendee:

*“I want to thank you for a wonderful conference. Other than some personal recommendations I had, I didn’t know what to expect. The Conference far and away exceeded my expectations. I thought everything, from greeters and hospitality when I arrived to the speakers, the organization and the facilities including the meals were well-done.*

*Most of all, my learning was enhanced and grown, which I believe will benefit me personally in my ministry and position. I look forward to joining you again for the 2017 NDICE.”*

## **2017**

With the theme of *Deacons, Sharing the Joy of Love*, Deacon Paul McBlain, NDICE president, welcomed attendees to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) on Sunday, July 16. The conference was held at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 16-19 , 2017.

Attendees were rewarded with another outstanding conference with the theme based on Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. NDICE is the longest-continuous education conference for U.S. deacons and their wives, helping fulfill the conference goal share the glory of God through preaching and service.

Metuchen, NJ Bishop James Checchio was the celebrant of the opening Mass on Sunday afternoon and then delivered the keynote address in the evening. He said the “goal of this year’s conference was to “break open” the words of Pope Francis great exhortation.....and based on the evaluations received at the end of the 4-day conference, this goal was achieved !

On Monday morning, popular diaconate blogger Deacon Greg Kandra “laid out the agenda” for what was to follow the rest of the week, laying out some thoughts on what constitutes the

Church's family as a prelude to a discussion of *Amoris Laetitia*. Deacon Kandra said that "as deacons, we ourselves are often members of non-traditional and unconventional families, and we "need to bear witness to the world what it means to love these members of our own families.

The second presentation on Monday morning was an in-depth look at "the biblical teaching of family" by Fr. Patrick Brady. He discussed some pre-suppositions, that scripture is primarily a personal encounter and said "sin imparts understanding, and added that we need to realize that Christ is the fullness of revelation.

Following Mass and lunch, Deacon Jerry Jorgensen gave two presentations on "the theology of the family." He said the goals of his presentations would be to explain the Church's teaching about the sacrament of Matrimony, to present a view of accompaniment and to describe imperfect situations. In summary, he said "marriage is for a lifetime, and the partners are to be faithful, , share an intimate relationship and be open to children"

The popular "Deacon Follies" followed dinner on Monday evening. Always a favorite at every NDICE and emceed by Boudreau himself (aka Deacon Hank Babin), the "follies" once again provided attendees the opportunity to display their musical talents and entertain with some stand-up humor. Boudreau spun his bits of Cajun wisdom and it brought a delightful end to a full day of intellectual knowledge and spiritual enlightenment.

On Tuesday morning, Deacon Bill Ditewig gave two presentations on moral decision making, focusing on Chapter Eight of *Amoris Laetitia* and especially the formation of conscience. He noted that Pope Francis stresses the formation of conscience throughout the document.

The third session on Tuesday morning featured the first of two excellent presentations by Deacon Chris Anderson on "living good Christian lives. In his presentation he quoted from the document and sources, and in discussing "how do we live good Christian lives", he concluded we do it "by realizing we can't.

After the second of Deacon Anderson's presentations in the afternoon, the NDICE business session was held and featured the announcement that the 2018 NDICE would be held in New Orleans in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the beginning of the permanent diaconate in the United States.

The final day of another great NDICE Conference featured Bishop William Skylstad once again giving a great presentation on the conference theme of deacons sharing the joy of love. He said

the development of Pope Francis exhortation took place through the International Meeting on the Family in Philadelphia in 2015.

Another successful NDICE concluded with the closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Skystad, at which he installed officers of NDICE for the coming year.

## **2018**

As announced at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual NDICE in 2017, this 44<sup>th</sup> Annual NDICE Conference would have attendees join in the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the permanent diaconate in the United States.

Held July 23-26, 2018 in New Orleans, LA, this brought together over two thousand permanent deacons and wives for a celebration that will be long remembered !

At the NDICE Business Meeting, Deacon John Fridley of the Belleville, IL diocese was elected to the NDICE Board of Directors as President-Elect . He will serve with NDICE President Deacon Paul McBlain, Secretary Deacon Jim Galbraith, Treasurer Deacon John Hempen, Wives Representative Mrs. Cheri Hall and Advisory Board members Deacon Ken Mitchell and Deacon Tim Helmick for the 2018-2019 year. Deacon Fridley will become NDICE President at the conclusion of the 2019 NDICE Conference.

## **2019**

The theme of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual NDICE Conference on July 21-24, 2019 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio is ***Deacons: Rejoice and Be Glad***. Based on Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation ***Gaudete et Exsultate***, a tremendous program developed by NDICE President Deacon Paul McBlain and the NDICE Board will "break open" Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation.

Outstanding presenters will headline the 2019 NDICE Conference. On Sunday afternoon, Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB will celebrate the opening Mass. Following dinner in the evening, Fr. Brendan will give the keynote address for this year's Conference.

On Monday morning, Atlanta, Georgia Deacon Alfred Mitchell will speak on *A Joyful Call to Holiness*, related to the Gaudete et Exsultate exhortation. Also on Monday, Nina Maria Corona will speak on *The Call to Holiness*, again related to the apostolic exhortation.

After lunch and evening prayer, always a part of every NDICE, Deacon Hank Babin, perhaps better known as “Boudreau” will emcee the always-popular “Deacon Follies”, highlighted by Boudreau’s Cajun humor.

On Tuesday morning, Deacon Bill Ditewig will give two presentations entitled ***Equally Sacred*** based on Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation. Following lunch, Deacon Chris Anderson will speak on ***Discernment***, also based on the apostolic exhortation.

This will be followed by the NDICE Business Meeting at which elections will be held for President-Elect, Secretary and Wives Representative. Since the 44<sup>th</sup> annual NDICE was held in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the U.S. diaconate in 2018 in New Orleans, NDICE President Deacon Paul McBlain, Secretary Deacon Jim Galbraith and Wives Representative Mrs. Cheri Hall were extended through 2018 and will end at the end of the 2019 NDICE Conference.

On Tuesday evening, attendees will enjoy the special concert presented by Carey Landry and his wife Carol Jean Kinghorn, nationally-known musicians and composers. The concert is a feature of every NDICE Conference and this year is no exception ! Evening prayer will conclude another outstanding day at NDICE.

On Wednesday following morning prayer, Fr. Patrick Brady will speak on ***The Constant Battle***, again based on Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation. This year’s NDICE program and tremendous line-up of presenters pays special tribute to NDICE President Deacon Paul McBlain for his three years as NDICE president with the development of this 45<sup>th</sup> annual NDICE Conference. Fr. Brady will celebrate the closing Mass and install the NDICE officers for the following year, including the newly-elected officers elected at this year’s Conference.

As the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference ends, Deacon John Fridley will assume the presidency of NDICE for the next two years.