



N.D.I.C.E.

National Diaconate Institute For
Continuing Education

August 20, 2019

'Promoting the Continuing Education of Deacons'
'God is Good - All the time - God is Good'

A warm welcome to all deacons and wives!

Well, if you missed the 2019 NDICE Conference at Xavier University, you missed a good one. Retiring President Paul McBlain and his staff did a great job in organizing and pulling off an excellent conference. The 250 plus people in attendance provided feedback and praised the speakers, facilities and the food. I cannot thank all those who assisted in the planning, organizing and execution of the conference enough. It was truly a team effort – Thank You.

We are well underway (see the officer link) in the planning for the 46th Annual NDICE Conference. It will be held on the beautiful Xavier University Campus in Cincinnati, Ohio. The location makes easy driving access via Interstates 70 and 75, or via air through the nearby Greater Cincinnati International Airport. The conference begins Sunday evening July 19th and continues through Wednesday noon July 22, 2020. Our theme for the 2020 Conference is “Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue: the Basics and Our Church’s Relations Today.” The multiple speakers will address Chapter 6 of the National Directory for the Diaconate as it refers to and strongly affirms the need for our ongoing understanding and involvement with Ecumenism, and Interreligious Dialogue with other world religions. We plan to have the full 2020 NDICE Schedule of Conference Events published in the October 2019 NDICE News.

Saint Pope John II, in his 1995 Encyclical on Ecumenism, *Ut Unum Sint*, (That They May Be One) stated that dialogue ‘is not simply an exchange of ideas. In some ways it is always an ‘exchange of gifts’ (para 28). This is likewise true in regards to Interreligious Dialogue. The National Directory for the Diaconate says, among other expectations, that the deacon is to be able to demonstrate the ability and skill “to develop relationships of understanding and respect with individuals of other Christian and non-Christian faiths while retaining his own Roman Catholic identity.”

Our conference in July of 2020 will retool and inspire us in this important aspect of our pastoral and ecclesial ministry. Meanwhile, we intend to publish relevant articles in our quarterly NDICE NEWS, leading up the conference to ‘peak your interest.’ We hope it will be an exciting journey over the next year and culminating at the 2020 NDICE Conference. We have a great line up of speakers. Please mark the dates – **July 19-22, 2020** hope to see you there.

Yours in Service to our Lord,


Dcn J.C. Fridley
President NDICE