

**Council of the Conference of Deacons
Archdiocese of Hartford
November 12, 2011**

Attendees: Bob Pallotti, Tim Healy, Donna Yatcko, Joe Ryzewski, Ed Taddei

Minutes from 9/24/11 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report – No report.

Deacon's Wives Report

A day of prayer was held 10/15/11. The Deacon wives website is being constructed so that emails can be sent directly to the wives. She would like to have provision for establishing a prayers list. Donna plans to meet with the candidate wives in the coming months.

Old Business (excluding projects)

- Regional Coordinators – This item will be removed.

Project Reports

- Vocations – Joe reported that Steve Yatcko plans to reconvene the Team to again with retreatants.
- Collaboration – Tim has been working on a booklet which would be a resource for priests and deacons for various services.
- Retired Deacons - This needs to be included within the context of revitalized deaneries.
- Diaconal Spirituality – There is interest in Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina prayer forms in a retreat.

New Business

- New President–elect proposed candidate: Steve Yatcko was voted on unanimously.
- There is a need for a workshop on the “New Evangelization”. What does it look like? What the tools available to implement in the parish? How can it be included in the formation program?
- Deanery Revitalization
 - Bob noted that continuing education is critical to this initiative. This can include on-line, local meetings, etc. He plans to encourage Deacons to take advantage of the resources available to increase their competencies in various areas. This in turn can help enable others to more in their parishes. Bob would like there to be a more developed plan.
 - Ed noted that that East Shore has had an established program based upon an annual schedule of meetings that includes speakers, deacon wives, widows along with special services.
 - Tim proposed that the Archbishop be ask to address the Deacons to state his expectations for Deacons (and their wives) to be active participants in a Deanery. He could also stress the importance of such to strengthen their ministry, spirituality and support to him. It was suggested that there be a meeting with the Archbishop and Deacons at least every year or two.
 - There is interest to further explore the roles and life/issues of candidates and their wives while in the formation program.

Director's Report (See attached notes from Bob)

- Bob requested brief articles for the newsletter from:
 - Ed “What has being a Deacon meant to him?”
 - Donna “ What is it like being a Deacon wife”
 - Tim “Value of Continuing Education?”
- Upcoming events
 - Day of Spirituality – The Magnificat 12/10/11
 - Courage Chapter Meeting 11/17/11
 - Practicum on new Roman Missal 11/19/11 @ St. James, Rocky Hill
 - Brandon Nappi workshop on “Specialty” homilies 4/20/11 @ Holy Family Retreat Center
 - Acolyte ceremony 11/22/11 @ St. Thomas Seminary
 - Workshop by John Haas being planned to address topics of intelligent design, the new atheist - 9/9/12
- Other Workshop Topics being considered
 - Inter-religious discussions (Ed reported that he has been involved in such activities and noted its value. He is willing to share his experience with others) Bob noted his hope to better equip Deacons to engage in this theatre with others.
 - Dealing with Loss (Death, job, youth, faith)
 - Ministry to those with Addiction
 - Bio-Ethics
 - Continuing Education Committee is requested to propose new books for Deacons to read in 2012 for their continual development.
- The October Retreat with Father Warren Savage was very good.
- Items for future review
 - Vatican's recent document about “International Banking”
 - Synod on Evangelization

Open Discussion

- Communication – Joe suggested that a digital library be established on our Website to post workshop presentations, seminars, etc. This would be a valuable resource for future reference by many.
- Tim noted that:
 - Deanery information is on the web.
 - Future COD meetings will be accessible via audio-feed
 - Candidates will be invited to future meetings.

Next Meeting is 1/14/12 - Audioconference ONLY @ 9 am.

To join:

1. Dial 1-218-548-0426
2. Enter Passcode: 381248#
3. If you get there early you'll hear music.

Respectfully recorded by Deacon Joe Ryzewski