

Council of the Conference of Deacons

Archdiocese of Hartford

March 12, 2011

I. 9-9:15 Sharing (see attached gospel)

II. 9:15-11 Meeting

Agenda

- Review of previous meeting's minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Deacon's Wives Report
- Old Business, excluding projects
 - Meeting of Regional Coordinators on the future of the diaconate
 - Trends (social, priests, seminarians, lay ministry...)
 - Implementation of Appreciative Inquiry model
 - Questionnaire to be completed at the annual Deacons' Retreat- tabled for future meeting – is now the time?
- Project Reports
 - Vocations
 - Collaboration
 - Retired Deacons
 - Diaconal Spirituality
- New Business
 - Dcn. Dr. Eric Thermer on Diaconal Leadership
 - COD Strategy Part 2
 - Identity
The Conference of Deacons is composed of all deacons in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Deacons are members simply by virtue of their ordination. You cannot *not* be a member. Participation, though, is completely optional.

- **Mission (for review and comment)**
The mission of the CCOD is twofold:

1. To advise the Director of Deacons about what's going on in the lives of deacons and their families, and to advise deaneries about what's going on in the life of the larger church that affects them.
2. To propose projects to be undertaken to address issues and opportunities that affect the diaconate in general. With the approval of the director, projects are launched and managed to conclusion.

The CCOD doesn't share the director's authority, and has no directive authority with regard to any particular deacon. Its role is simply to be an information conduit and a project management resource.

- **Values (for review and comment)**

The COD is a purpose-driven, X organization of compassionate men who place high value on personal integrity and service in the name of Jesus Christ. As heralds of His Good News, we envision ourselves as bearers of peace and justice. Committed to being deeply spiritual and prayerful people, we cherish our faith and share it with those we serve.

- **Mission (new)**

The mission of the COD is to...

- Director's Report
- Open Discussion
- Closing Prayer

Reflection Reading (Mt 4:1-11)

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.

The tempter approached and said to him,

"If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."

He said in reply,

"It is written:

One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down.

For it is written:

He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered him,

"Again it is written,

You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."

At this, Jesus said to him,

"Get away, Satan!

It is written:

The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."

Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Discussion starters (use one or more, or come up with something better)

1. Name some of the sorest temptations we endure in the diaconate. How do we deal with them?
2. Who or what else do we find ourselves serving in this life? How might we address that situation in Lent?