

**Director's Report for the Conference of Deacons  
Hartford  
January 14, 2012**

**I. Developments in Cont. Ed.**

- Spirituality Day Dec. 10- Mary. Went well. We had about 23 deacons attend
- Establishment of a Courage Chapter is underway. The great amount of media attention has led to 7 people interested in the process. We made Leno!  
April 20, 2012 Workshop on Homiletics with Brandon Nappi  
November 19 a Practicum on the Third Roman Missal, 40 deacons attended.
- The emerging relationship between religion and science Sept. 8, 2011, internationally respected Roman Catholic Theologian, Dr. John Haught of Georgetown University will present a workshop on Religion and Science :Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century at St. Thomas Seminary. He will respond to the "New Atheists" as well as discuss the relevant overlap of religion and science
- Interreligious understanding and action will be explored further. I would like deacons who have interest in this to work with me on getting this off the ground. I would like to **explore the ongoing discussion on reconciling with the Jewish people by studying "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah", 1998. Watch the newsletter.**
- Dealing with Loss will be a topic for the next academic year. We need to formally set something up with Sr. Maureen O'Brien—What about next Spring?
- Should offer a workshop on ministry to those with addictions will be offered the next academic year as well.
- We will need to make sure we have a good speaker for a workshop on bioethics for the Fall of 2013.
- Coordinating efforts with the Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministries and Catholic Charities is something Deacon Bob is discussing with both offices.
- Deacon Retreats 2012, Fr. Conroy, S.J. and 2013, Fr. William Sheehan on Centering Prayer and Contemplation.

**Formation Issues**

- The Archbishop is open to having 20 deacon candidates in a class.
- The Archbishop is supportive of the expansion of the deacon newsletter as a vehicle to explore the spiritual, academic, human, emotional and psychological formation of the deacons. Give me stuff!!!!
- There are a number of pastors that wish to have deacons that have not been able to get one due to local deacon shortages. We need promote vocations from a number of areas including the Farmington Valley and the southern part of the Archdiocese.
- At present we have 13 candidates for 2012 ordination, 11 for 2014 and 14 Aspirants.

