

## Conference of Deacon Meeting

3/16/2013

Holy Angels– South Meriden

**In attendance:** Deacons: Jim Tanguay, Frank Bevvino, Ramon Rosado, Bill Bartlett, Neil Richter, Gene Nebiolo, Tim Healy, Steve Yatcko, Bob Pallotti, Joe Ryzewski, Ed Taddei, Michael Ward, Ernie Pagliaro, Rich Hamel and Donna Yatcko

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by Steve and an opening prayer was offered by Jim Tanquay.

**Minutes:** The minutes for the 1/12/13 meeting were read and then accepted.

**Treasurer Report:** Gene presented his report and requested additional funds from Bob.

**Director:** Bob thanked all who came to represent their Deaneries. He noted that we are in a phase of Diaconate change and clarification locally and worldwide.

**Wives and Widows of Deacons Ministry:** Donna reported that the phone tree has worked well to establish future lines of communication. She noted how appreciative some widows were and the need to embrace others. Bob noted that Donna has had a summer luncheon and suggested they be invited to a session at a central restaurant location where he could further welcome them and advise of what is available. Donna added that thirty women participated in a Retreat on February 22-24, 2013 at Our Lady of Calvary. There also was a day of reflection held for Candidate wives on March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Sacred Heart Caritas Center on “Dessert Spirituality”. Several Deacon wives also spent a little time meeting with them

### Old Business:

1. Contemplative Prayer – Tim Healy noted that there have been meetings at Holy Cross Church- New Britain on the last Tuesday evening and the last Thursday morning of the week of the month. The prayer is based on Lectio Divina. John Hart was also trying to organize something similar in the southern area.
2. Deanery Revitalization – Bob noted the importance for Deacons to meet periodically during the year to share ideas and plans. In particular, they need to focus on positive approaches which can enhance their efforts through collaboration. This can help revitalize our parishes and attract others by giving them opportunities to be together in meaningful work and ‘play’. Bob will be calling a meeting with Deanery heads to understand:
  - What do they want from the COD?
  - What do they need for Continuing Education?
  - What is the State/Welfare of Deacons in their area?
3. Vocations: Joe provided an update of Project ‘DVD’. He thanked all for their support and noted that pairs of Deacons had spoken at various weekend Retreats held at Holy Family Monastery – West Hartford between January and March. Potential candidates were referred to the Diaconate Office to be invited to the Inquiry Sessions

at St. Thomas Seminary on March 10 & 24, 2013. Bob noted that about 25 men attended. Steve and Donna have been invited to address them on March 24<sup>th</sup> about the Conference of Deacons and “Being the Wife of a Deacon”. Bob noted that we need more candidates from the Asian and Indian community. Ramon noted the growth of a Bangladesh community.

4. From the 1/12/13 Meeting: The Diaconate needs to assemble a Long Range Plan.

#### **New Business:**

1. **Cultural:** Interest was expressed in providing Deacons training and resources to equip them to deal better with different cultural groups, language, ritual, etc. in their parishes and ministries. Draft a proposal for Rossetta stone.

#### **Deanery Reports:** (None)

#### **Director’s Report w/ Upcoming Events – Bob Pallotti (Refer to upcoming Newsletters for more details)**

- There is a need to provide Deacons with a better understanding of different religious traditions and cultures. This will allow us the opportunity to build from that base. Bob is interested in deacons who would like to work with him and getting this off. He is planning to have a meeting in May for a study and reflection session in “We remember: Reflection on the Shoah”.
- Bob is exploring opportunities for coordinating efforts with the Office of Catholic Social Justice and Catholic Charities.
- Bob inquired about interest in having an evening dinner honoring the priest of the Archdiocese where the deacons serve them their meals. There was a positive response. It will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- Bob acknowledged the work Ed Taddei is doing with establishing and maintaining a network among ‘senior deacons’ that keeps them informed and feel part of our community. Ed invited all to advise him of other deacons who can be ‘connected’.

There are 10 candidates for 2014 and 11 for the class of 2016. Bob noted their commitment and enthusiasm.

#### **Upcoming Events include:**

- March 24, 2013: “Hartford Hospital – No One Dies Alone (NODA) program. How to Minister to those actively dying?” Bob, Ramon and Tim will be attending and scout out its potential for a future workshop to Deacons.
- April 27, 2013 – “Ministry to First Responders” by Dcn. Tony Surozenski of Worcester. A national certification program is available for any Deacons who may be interested afterwards.
- June 8, 2013: Social Justice Conference @ St. Paul’s High School
- September 14, 2013: “Multi Cultural Ministry” Workshop

- October 18-20, 2013 Retreat: Fr. William Sheehan on “Centering Prayer and Contemplation”
- Other topics in consideration by the Continued Education Committee:
  - Interreligious understanding and action.
  - “We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah”
  - Near Death Experience” by Dr. Eban Axlender and how do we minister to those who have had NDE. ( Spring 2014)
  - “Ministry to Those with Addictions” ( Fall 2014)
  - Workshop on “Jesus” by Fr. Matera during this Year of Faith
  - Workshop on “Ministry to Those with Addictions” (2013-2014)

Bob welcomes Deacons to offer their ideas and enthusiasm to any of the above noted items.

### **Closing**

Meeting closed with a prayer by Steve and adjourned at 11:00am.

Next meeting is May TBA , 2013 @ 9 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Dcn Joe Ryzewski – Secretary

## Deanery Report

Deanery: \_\_\_\_\_ Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Activities:

Planned Activities:

Other Comments / Concerns: