

Council of the Conference of Deacons  
Archdiocese of Hartford  
September 24, 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
  - Regional Coordinators
  - Trends (social, priests, seminarians, lay ministry...)
  - Implementation of Appreciative Inquiry model
- Project Reports
  - Vocations
  - Collaboration
  - Retired Deacons
  - Diaconal Spirituality
- New Business
  - Deanery revitalization adding
    - service to retired deacons
    - director communication
    - project recommendations
    - perhaps contemplative outreach spirituality
- COD Strategy Part 4
  - 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

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

The COD is a purpose-driven, 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.

○ Goals

The Goals of the CCOD are to:

Support the Archbishop in the serving the people of God

Accomplish identified projects of the Conference

Create the annual plans of the Continuing Education Committee

Encourage each other's spiritual growth (complete spirituality project and deanery revitalization)

Encourage growth of the Diaconate (complete vocations project)

## Step 5 – initiatives and Approaches

- Director's Report
- Open Discussion
- Closing Prayer

## **GOSPEL MT 21:28-32**

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Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

"What is your opinion?

A man had two sons.

He came to the first and said,

'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'

He said in reply, 'I will not, '

but afterwards changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, 'but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?"

They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you,

tax collectors and prostitutes

are entering the kingdom of God before you.

When John came to you in the way of righteousness,

you did not believe him;

but tax collectors and prostitutes did.

Yet even when you saw that,

you did not later change your minds and believe him."

1. How does this gospel speak specifically to deacons?
2. What challenges are presented to deacons and their families by this gospel?
3. What did the tax collectors and prostitutes see that evaded the chief priests and elders of the people?