The 2019 NDICE Conference has left us with great memories that will enhance our diaconate ministry. Thanks to the great planning of NDICE President Deacon Paul McBlain who chose the conference theme of Deacons: Rejoice and Be Glad, the 2019 conference was a “hit” from its early infancy.

Based on Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate, the topics and presenters chosen by President McBlain was followed through during this past year in the bi-monthly NDICE NEWS newsletter. The newsletter prepared the way for the great conference that just concluded at Xavier in Cincinnati, Ohio leaving great memories for the attendees who traveled from many states for this 45th annual diaconate program.

This issue of the newsletter is devoted to focusing on what took place at this year’s NDICE conference. Beginning with the opening Mass on Sunday evening and concluding with the final presentation on Wednesday, the presenters chosen by Deacon Paul did an outstanding job.

In addition to the outstanding presentations, every NDICE conference has much more to offer that makes this the longest continuous continuing education program for the permanent diaconate ministry. I invite you to see the recap of this year’s conference in these pages of this August newsletter!

With these fond memories as the backdrop, it is now time to begin to think about the next NDICE conference which will again be held at Xavier University. I have chosen as the theme of the 2020 NDICE Conference “Let Us All Be One” to enable us to focus on ecumenism, which will fit in with upcoming proposed changes to the Directory for the Formation of Deacons.

The changes to Chapter VI will place emphasis on the need for additional training on/in the formation of future deacons. I chose this theme for the 2020 NDICE Conference since my thoughts are that if the future deacons-in-training are presently not receiving adequate training with regard to ecumenism, then perhaps currently ordained deacons could use additional information also.

That will be the focus of the 2020 NDICE conference as we begin preparations. But first, let’s take a final look at the 2019 NDICE Conference in this issue of the newsletter!

Deacons: Rejoice and Be Glad!

The 45th Annual National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) conference was held July 21-24, 2019 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio with the theme Deacons: Rejoice and Be Glad.

Based on Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate, this was the theme chosen by 2019 NDICE President Deacon Paul McBlain for the 2019 NDICE Conference. It was an excellent choice for the annual conference and the tremendous program developed by President McBlain lead to an outstanding diaconate continuing education program.

During this past year, the topics and presenters chosen gave an excellent prelude to the conference as each chapter of the exhortation “broke open” the apostolic exhortation. The articles written were emailed in the bi-monthly NDICE NEWS newsletter to the U.S. diocesan diaconate directors, who forwarded the email newsletter to their entire diocesan diaconate community.

Also receiving the newsletter were past attendees of the annual NDICE conference, which is the longest-continuous education conference for the diaconate ministry. Begun in 1976, NDICE has served thousands of permanent deacons, candidates and their wives with educational information and fellowship with others in diaconate ministry.

Conference activities began at noon on Sunday with registration in Fenwick Place, the central location for the conference since it has the excellent dormitory and also the cafeteria, making for convenient access to all meals. Attendees arrived from many states, eager to begin another educational diaconate conference.

Following registration, the opening Mass in Bellarmine Chapel was celebrated by Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB, who was remembered by many attendees for his previous appearances at NDICE conferences when he gave inspiring, lively presentations. His homily set the tone for the opening of the conference and was followed by dinner in the Fenwick cafeteria.

After dinner, NDICE President-Elect Deacon John Fridley gave the welcoming address with NDICE President Deacon Paul McBlain, who continues to recover from serious health issues this past year but looked forward to this conference. Deacon Paul was enthusiastically applauded by attendees for joining them at this year’s conference.

Once again, Fr. Brendan delivered a great keynote address! His keynote message is available on the NDICE website at ndice.net, as are the other presentations at this year’s NDICE…check them out. Following Fr. Moss’
keynote address, it was time for evening prayer and the first day’s activities ended as attendees retired to their rooms in the Fenwick dorms. While off-site hotels were available and used by some, most attendees choose to stay in the comfortable and convenient Fenwick rooms.

Monday morning got off to an early start with the 7 a.m. breakfast in the convenient on-site cafeteria. This was followed by morning prayer and Mass, celebrated in the close-by Bellarmine chapel. Daily Mass is celebrated at each year's NDICE conference.

The first presenter on Monday’s program was Atlanta, Georgia Deacon Alfred Mitchell, who addressed the topic A Joyful Call to Holiness, related to the Gaudete et Exsultate exhortation of Pope Francis. Ordained in 1987, Deacon Alfred is a volunteer chaplain in the Interfaith Chaplaincy at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, and has served in prison ministry in the Atlanta area.

Following the mid-morning break, Deacon Alfred delivered a second lively presentation. Having lead retreats for more than three dozen dioceses and archdiocese in the United States and Canada since 1991, he “connected” with the attendees. He and his wife Josie will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in October.

Following lunch and a short break which allowed time for the sharing of diaconate ministry for both deacons and wives, the afternoon program featured a truly outstanding presenter, Nina Marie Corona. Currently pursuing a Doctorate of ministry degree at Fordham University, she has a Master of Arts in Spirituality from Loyola University in Chicago.

She is the founder and executive director of two ministries; We Thirst and AFIRE. A member of the Catholic Speakers Organization, she is a sought-after retreat facilitator and teaches theology and spirituality.

Speaking on the exhortation theme topic of Enemies of Holiness, Nina's presentation related to drug addiction was a highlight of this year's NDICE presentations. Following her address, she answered questions and shared her family's experiences related to drug addiction that resonated with her audience.

The very-busy and enlightening first-day presentations were followed by a time for attendees to enjoy a short break that was followed by evening prayer. This was followed by free time for more sharing of diaconate ministry experiences and dinner.

Then it was time to enjoy the Deacon Follies, a “hit” at every NDICE. Directed by (and starring) Deacon Hank Babin (aka as “Boudreaux”), this gives attendees not only a chance to relax and enjoy the entertainment of others, but also the opportunity to entertain with their musical talents and stories.

Hank with his “Boo n’ Tib” stories are so hilarious they defy explanation; suffice it to say that when attendees leave each year's NDICE, this is one evening they really look forward to and enjoy. One of his unique “Boo 'n Tib” stories is found on page 7 of this newsletter.

The busy Monday program was followed by another early start on Tuesday with the 7 a.m. breakfast and morning prayer, followed by Mass.

The first presentation on Tuesday morning featured the well-known deacon author Deacon Bill Ditewig who addressed the theme topic Equally Sacred, related to the apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis. Deacon Bill has served on the diocesan and national levels in diaconate leadership, including...behind him is his brother Deacon Leo McBlain.

Deacon Paul McBlain addresses attendees...behind him is his brother Deacon Leo McBlain.

NDICE Secretary Deacon Jim Galbraith receives service award from President Deacon John Fridley.

NDICE Wives Representative Mrs. Cheri Hall receives service award from President Deacon John Fridley.

Group picture of the participants in the Deacon Follies.
as Executive Director of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate.

Following a short break, Deacon Bill gave a second presentation on the topic, which was followed by lunch. As with the other presentations, see the conference videos on the ndice.net NDICE website.

After lunch, Deacon Chris Anderson spoke on the theme topic of Discernment related to the apostolic exhortation. Attendees were privileged this past year to read the excellent articles he wrote for several issues of the NDICE NEWS newsletter related to the conference theme. His presentation is also available to see on the NDICE website.

After Deacon Anderson’s presentation, the NDICE Business meeting and the deacon wives social were held. At these sessions, elections and representatives to replace those whose terms ended with this conference took place......see details of these meetings in the NDICE Meeting Minutes on page 8.

In the evening, the banquet which is a high point of each NDICE was held, after which Carey Landry’s concert was enjoyed. Evening prayer concluded a busy day’s activity.

The final day of NDICE began with the 7 a.m. breakfast on Wednesday morning, followed by morning prayer. In the closing presentation, Fr. Patrick Brady addressed the theme topic of The Constant Battle with another excellent address that followed the NDICE theme related to the apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis.

The closing conference Mass was celebrated by Fr. Brady, at which he gave closing remarks and installed the NDICE officers, who will serve until the 2020 NDICE conference next July 19-22, 2020. Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB was the keynote presenter on Sunday evening at the 2019 NDICE.

Mrs. Rhonda Heim (second from right) is new Wives Representative and will be assisted (from left to right ) by Mrs. Marlene Fridley, Mrs. Pat Klingelsmith and Mrs. Geri Hough.
The Society of St. Lawrence, the Diaconate Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, has been providing deacon pins to our brother deacons and their wives for many years. We thank you for your support of this ministry.

Deacon Pin

From Left to Right Starting on Top Row
Deacon Pin, Anniversary Pin, Wife’s Pin, Tie Tack, and Small Deacon Pin

Check or money order: Society of St. Lawrence c/o Deacon Gerald Savage 36 Broad St. Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Questions:
Deacon Gerald Savage
Email: GSavage7@roadrunner.com or Call: 518.359.3927

Deacon Hank (aka Boudreaux) Babin is NDICE Executive Secretary.

Deacon Sil Galvan and his wife Doroth participated in the Deacon Follies.

Deacon Chris Anderson was the Tuesday afternoon presenter at the 2019 NDICE conference.

Society of St. Lawrence Deacon Pins

The Society of St. Lawrence, the Diaconate Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, has been providing deacon pins to our brother deacons and their wives for many years. We thank you for your support of this ministry.

Just $10.00 Each

Name____________________________________Phone ________________
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Description Clutch Back Pin Back Total Pins
Deacon Pin
Wife’s Pin
Deacon 5 Year Anniversary n/a
Deacon 10 Year Anniversary n/a
Deacon 15 Year Anniversary n/a
Deacon 20 Year Anniversary n/a
Deacon 25 Year Anniversary n/a
Deacon 30 Year Anniversary n/a
Deacon 35 Year Anniversary n/a
Deacon 40 Year Anniversary n/a
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Tie Tack

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Shipping and Handling
$5.00 for Orders up to $100.00 • $10.00 for Orders over $100.00

Total Enclosed

VISIT US ONLINE AT: www.StLawrenceSociety.org

Deacon Bill Ditewig gave two presentations on Tuesday morning related to the conference theme.

Deacon Bill Ditewig gave two presentations on Tuesday morning related to the conference theme.

Deacon Chris Anderson was the Tuesday afternoon presenter at the 2019 NDICE conference.
Plan to Attend!

The 46th Annual Conference of the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education.

NDICE WILL BE HELD
July 19-22, 2020
at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH

Conference theme is
"Let Us All Be One"
We look forward to seeing you there!

Deacon Leo McBlain addresses the attendees.

Deacon Richard Fagan was a Deacon Follies participant.

Deacon Hank (Boudreaux) Babin directed the NDICE Follies.

Fr. Patrick Brady was the celebrant of the Wednesday morning Mass and installed the NDICE officers for the next year.
What a great conference! A big “thank you” to Deacon Paul McBlain, assisted by his wife Helen and his brother, Deacon Leo McBlain, for a well-planned and executed NDICE convention. Many thanks to our Executive Director, Deacon Hank Babin.

To begin, we say “thank you and God-speed” to several of this year’s officers whose terms of office have ended. These include Deacon Paul McBlain, who completed his extended three-year term as President with his great leadership for this outstanding conference. Deacon Jim Galbraith served us well as Secretary; Deacon Joe Standridge was elected to take his place on the NDICE Board.

Mrs. Cheri Hall gave us four great years as the “deacon wives representative” and she will be followed by Mrs. Rhonda Heim, who will be assisted by three ladies; Mrs. Geri Hough, Mrs. Pat Klinglesmith and Mrs. Marlene Fridley. Rounding out the new officers on the Board is Deacon Max Roadruck, who will serve on as President-elect. (See the ndice.net webpage for pictures, names and contact information for all the officers.).

You will be able to view many of the 2019 NDICE sessions on the NDICE webpage at ndice.net. Deacon Gerry Bach has been building a new webpage over the past several months that isn’t 100% complete, but does house the video’s, officer contact information, history and much more. Check it out, and if you have some suggestions or recommendations, please share them with Gerry.

It takes an outstanding Board of Directors to make it possible for the NDICE organization to function. We are blessed to have had the support of dedicated officers and we need to mention and thank them.

NDICE is indeed fortunate to have Deacon John Hempen continue as Treasurer. He does an outstanding job in watching over the all-important finances of NDICE. He does a great job!

As I begin my two-year term as NDICE President, I feel blessed to be supported by the NDICE officers. I pledge to do my best to continue the fine work done by our predecessors on the NDICE Board!

We also lost a true friend and voice of the diaconate through retirement this year. Jim Alt is saying good-bye after a nearly 40- year association with the deacon community and NDICE. Jim, we cannot say “Thank You” enough, for your support and encouragement throughout the years. A true friend, leader and confidant, you will be missed.

Lastly and especially, thanks to all who attended this year’s conference. You are why the conference is offered for your diaconate ministry. Your attendance and enthusiastic response to each presenter’s message continues to drive your NDICE Board to plan bigger and better conferences each year. Please continue to give us the energy and desire to shine, through your conference attendance.

And with this successful conference now behind us, please know that planning for the 2020 NDICE is well underway. Mark your calendar and save the dates of July 19-22, 2020. The conference will again be held at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. The July 2020 theme will address Ecumenism with the theme of “Let Us All Be One”. I look forward to seeing you there...follow the ndice.net NDICE website for conference information throughout the year, leading up to the next conference.

Peace and God’s Blessings to All.

Deacon John C. Fridley
NDICE President
A popular feature at every NDICE is Deacon Hank Babin, aka “Boudreaux.”

Boudreaux and Thibodeaux loved bungee jumping and got the wild idea that if they went to Mexico and build a tower they could make a lot of money. They loaded their truck with supplies and headed to Mexico.

As they were building the tower the locals began gathering around out of curiosity. When the tower was finished there was a very large crowd around the tower. Boudreaux turned to Thibodeaux and said, “Ya kno, Thibodeaux, ah betta try dis ting out befo we let anyone jomp ta make sho it’s safe.”

Boudreaux tied the cord around himself and jumped. He came up and was scratched and bruised. Thibodeaux reached for him but failed to pull him onto the platform. He plunged a second time. As he came up, he was scratched and bruised even more than the first time. Again, Thibodeaux failed to pull him onto the platform, so he plunged a third time.

As he came up the third time, he was almost unconscious and Thibodeaux finally caught him and pulled him onto the platform. Thibodeaux asked, “Wat’s da matta, Boudreaux, is da cord too long?”

Boudreaux replied, “No Thibodeaux, da cord is not too long, but ah gotta ask ya wats a piñata?”

As past attendees to NDICE know, ya gotta hear Hank’s cajun delivery to really appreciate!
Minutes of the 45th Annual NDICE Business Meeting
Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio • July 23, 2019

Present:
Deacons Hank Babin, John Fridley, Jim Galbraith, Tim Helmick, John Hempen, Ken Mitchell, Paul McBlain,
Special Guest: Deacon Tom Dubois, Executive Director, NADD.

Welcome:
President-elect John Fridley welcomed the 85 in attendance at 3:30 PM and he introduced Deacon Tim Helmick who gave an opening prayer. There was a special recognition given for the work of President Paul McBlain and the medical challenges he endured this past year. There was a standing ovation given to Deacon Paul for his outstanding service and dedication for NDICE.

Minutes:
Secretary Galbraith read through the minutes taken at the 50th anniversary congress in New Orleans and these were approved. (Wilson/Mueller)

Treasurer’s Report:
Treasurer John Hempen provided a comprehensive Profit & Loss Report for the membership and reported a checking account balance of $123,360.11 (as of 7/12/19). He projects that NDICE should be fiscally solid for the 2020 conference and with our reduced attendance numbers, our expenses are sustainable. Max Roadruck confirmed again that our 501c3 status is good for another 4 years through our relationship with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The treasurer’s report was approved. (Roadruck/Mueller)

Old Business:
John reminded the members that Gerry Bach has been working on the NDICE web page. As the webmaster, Gerry wants feedback on the initial product and urged the members to check it out on ndice.net and let him know what entries need to be corrected or updated.

Election of New Officers:
The floor was open for nominations for Secretary and President-Elect. Frank Williams and Joe Standridge were nominated and both men addressed the membership. A ballot was prepared and vote taken and Joe Standridge from the Diocese of Fort Worth was elected as the next Secretary. For President-Elect, there was only one nomination from the floor and that was Max Roadruck. A motion was made (Hempen/Galbraith) that we approve the election by acclimation and this was done. Congratulations to both Joe Standridge and Max Roadruck. Also, the Wives Representative group elected Rhonda Heim from Des Moines, Iowa to be the lead officer for the next two years. The group also agreed to have assistant leaders and these include Geri Hough, Pat Klingelsmith, and Marlene Fridley. Congratulations to these new leaders of the NDICE Wives Group.

New Business:
There were some suggestions made in New Orleans for the NDICE board to consider and John Fridley responded that these are items that will be examined at the board planning meeting in the fall. Some areas that were mentioned at this meeting include:
• Expanding the conference from a Sunday to Thursday time frame. This would probably be too expensive in working with XU and too costly for NDICE members. The board has strived to keep the registration fees as contained as possible and will continue to do so.
• It would be nice to produce some fancy, colorful brochures and pamphlets but again the cost of such undertaking is seen by many as another costly undertaking. Hank Babin mentioned that we have been able to produce and copy pamphlets through church resources with minimal cost. Slick communication pieces are nice but very costly to produce and distribute.
• Consider including some educational reports from regional diaconate conferences in our website product. It is always interesting to learn what is happening in dioceses around the country. We cannot forget that NDICE is focused on continued education for the diaconate and we still issue CEUs for participants.
• A map was shown which highlighted the fact that most of the deacons come from the East and Midwest. There was a large blank area on the map for regions of the Southwest and the West Coast. The board needs to continue to discuss new ways to reach out and market NDICE for those regions that are not well represented. Things like distance, travel cost, vacation times, busy schedules, and other factors will be explored by the board to see in what ways the word and NDICE story can be told. Are there new ways in which to tell the NDICE story for those who do not come to the conference?
• It was mentioned by some that NDICE is still about deacon growth and development and the important aspect of fellowship and interaction by deacons across the country has a powerful impact upon those who attend. The focus next year will be on ecumenism and that is an area that is an area that many deacons desire to learn more, especially at this time of religious diversity in our world.

NADD:
Tom Dubois thanked NDICE for coming to New Orleans last year in such numbers. There were some 3,000 in attendance with bishops, priests, deacons, wives, and guests. He felt that there was such wonderful response with 1,500 deacons and their wives. Tom felt that the NDICE meeting location at XU was an excellent arrangement for our conferences. He said that we might consider holding joint NADD-NDICE conferences every 4 or 5 years. NADD will be in Phoenix in 2020. One of the big concerns with NADD conferences is that they use hotels and the nightly room rates can be $150-200/night and meal costs at $75. He stated again that he thought the arrangements at XU were superb and very cost effective.
Reminder: NDICE will meet next July 19-23, 2020 at Xavier University with a focus on Ecumenism

Closing Prayer:
Deacon Hank Babin gave a closing prayer.

With no further business, John Fridley closed the meeting at 4:55 PM.

Submitted by Deacon Jim Galbraith, Secretary