Diaconal Continuing Education
Self-Study Resources
Last Updated: 23Nov09 – By: Deacon Marc Genty

There currently exists in the Canons of the Church (Title III, Canon 7: Of The Life And Work Of Deacons, Section 5) a requirement for ongoing continuing education for all clergy. This document seeks to address just one aspect of this requirement for the permanent diaconate, namely self-study resources.

The locus of the life and ministry of the permanent diaconate is primarily in the world, and this is also where most are employed. The juggling of secular employment with ministry and parochial assignments in general leaves precious little time for continuing education. Traditional classroom-based education or seminars may be possible on occasion, but this likely will not be the norm for the ongoing continuing education of the permanent diaconate. Self-study will almost certainly be the primary component, and it is to the latter that this document seeks to function as a living resource.

Title II, Canon 6: Of The Ordination Of Deacons, Section 5 (f) states the five general areas of competency required for ordination as a Deacon in the Church. These canonical areas of competency are:

(1) Academic studies including, The Holy Scriptures, theology, and the tradition of the Church.
(2) Diakonia and the diaconate.
(3) Human awareness and understanding.
(4) Spiritual development and discipline.
(5) Practical training and experience.

This also seems like a reasonable framework upon which to base the canonical requirement for ongoing continuing education. In particular, this document seeks to provide a list of self-study resources organized within the five canonical areas. Please note, however, that Area (1) has been broken out into its three constituent parts: Holy Scripture, Theology, and Tradition making for a total of seven subsections within the self-study resources bibliography.

The material for Holy Scripture, Theology, Tradition, and Diakonia comes in part from the excellent bibliographies developed by the Board Of Examining Chaplains (BOEC) in support of the academic modules component of the new diaconal formation process. Similarly, the material for Human Awareness & Understanding is primarily a composite of the bibliographies from past and present sessions of JustFaith that have been or are being taught in a number of locations around the Diocese. The material for Spiritual Development & Discipline comes from the bibliographies of several professional practitioners (lay & clergy) in the Diocese. Lastly, the material for Practical Training &
Experience derives from two primary sources: 1) the bibliography – developed by the Commission On Ministry (COM) – for the homiletics component of the diaconal formation process, and 2) the bibliography for the week-long diaconal preaching seminar (Making a Prophetic Witness & Being Heard) that was held at The Cathedral College of Preachers at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2006.

It is also our recommendation that deacons in the Diocese of Colorado be members of the North American Association for the Diaconate (NAAD). NAAD has been a pioneer and continues on the leading edge of thought in how best to facilitate Life Long Learning for the Diaconate. Additional information can be found at http://www.diakonoi.org/.

(Please note that there is no significance to the order of the bibliographical items listed in each subsection of the canonical areas of competency.)
Holy Scripture


Sowing the Gospel: Mark’s Work in Literary-Historical Perspective, Mary Ann Tolbert, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1996.


"Say to This Mountain": Mark’s Story of Discipleship, Ched Myers, Orbis Books, 1996.
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**Tradition**


The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart, Peter Gomes, Morrow, 1996.


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Kingdom of Heaven, DVD, 20th Century Fox, 2005.


**Theology**

How to Think Theologically, Howard Stone, Fortress Press, 1996.


Diakonia


Deacons in the Episcopal Church, NAAD, 1991.


The Diaconate Now, Richard Nolan, Corpus Books, 1968. (Also available on the web.)


Deacons in the Liturgy, Ormonde Plater, Morehouse, 1992. (New version due out 2009.)


Dead Man Walking, DVD, MGM, 1995.

Human Awareness & Understanding


Jesus Wants to Save Christians: A Manifesto for the Church in Exile, Rob Bell, Zondervan, 2008.


Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion, Sara Miles, Ballantine Books, 2008.


The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical, Shane Claiborne, Zondervan, 2006.

Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals, Shane Claiborne & Chris Haw, Zondervan, 2008.

Don’t Call Us Out of Name: The Untold Story of Women and Girls in Poor America, Lisa Dodson, Beacon Press, 1999.
The Boys of Baraka, (Racism/Poverty), DVD, P.O.V., 2006.
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**Critical Condition**, (Healthcare), DVD, P.O.V., 2008.


**Using the Hidden Rules of Class to Create Sustainable Communities**, Philip DeVol, [http://www.ppcaa.org/PDF%20Files/Using%20the%20Hidden%20Rules%20Class.pdf](http://www.ppcaa.org/PDF%20Files/Using%20the%20Hidden%20Rules%20Class.pdf)

**Spiritual Development & Discipline**


Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation, M. Robert Mulholland Jr., IVP, 1993.


Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice, Lauren Artress, Riverhead Trade, 2006.


**Practical Training & Experience**


As One Without Authority, Fred Craddock, Abingdom, Nashville, TN, 1981.


The Preaching Event, John Claypool, (1979 Lyman Beecher lectures at Yale)


Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership, Dan Hotchkiss, Alban Institute, 2009.

Strength to Love, Martin Luther King, Jr., Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1981.

A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr., Martin Luther King, Jr., HarperOne, 1990.


Good examples of telling the Gospel creatively in a contemporary context:

John Claypool, Frederick Buechner, and Robert Capon.