

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2019  
National Association of Black Catholic Deacons  
(NABCD)

Greetings my Brother Deacons and Spouses!

Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:20 “give thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father”. I am very thankful for all blessings bestowed on each one of us since our last conference in July 2018.

I am very grateful for the deacons who continue to support the organization by attendance at conference, responding to conference calls and e-mail communication.

Thanks to Deacon Leonard Chambliss and Deacon Jerry Lett, we have hired a webmaster and work is being done on the development of a website.

The deacons of our organization have been very active in church ministry assisting at Masses, celebrating baptisms, presiding at weddings and funerals. Also, several deacons attended the home going of our clergy brother and President of the NACCC Father Ken Taylor.

We join other clergy on the Board of Trustees for the National Black Catholic Congress and the National Planning Committees for the 2019 Joint Conference of Sisters, Clergy and Seminarians. In our individual parishes we are working on planning events to support the canonization of the six African American candidates, three **Venerable** Father Tolton, Pierre Toussaint, and Henriette DeLille and the three Servants of God : Sister Thea Bowman, Mother Mary Lange and Julia Greely.

This past year we have been working on the following:

- Build and maintain a functioning web site which will be up and running by the start of Joint conference
- Develop a plan to honor our deceased deacon & spouses
  1. To create and post a plaque in Montgomery Al. (Resurrection Parish)
  2. To create a proclamation from NABCD on each occurrence to be sent to home parishes
  3. To contribute \$250.00 to IBSC in the name of each honored deacon and spouse, detailed clarifications to be resolved
- Develop a stable financial strategy to support our organization's programs and services
- Develop an online workshop approach to teaching germane subjects such as Spirituality, Spoken Word and Social Justice. The idea is to develop a consistent and broad presence electronically such that all members can participate.
- Develop a speaker's bureau using all the talents within the Black Deacon Community.
- Build membership growth and development strategies based on the data gathered from our last year needs assessment.

Many of us are busy in your communities working for peace, justice and an increase in vocations. For me active participation on the Seattle Archdiocese's Black Catholic Advisory Commission keeps me busy.

As servant ordained to serve the church, all of you are to be commended for your work with the homeless, youth, the elderly, prison ministry, education and church administration. May God continue to bless you with good health and strength to preserver.

I look forward to seeing all at the Joint Conference in Baltimore MD where we have much to discuss and plan in the upcoming year.

Finally, a special thanks to the Officers Deacons Larry Chatman, Jerry Lett, Leonard Chambliss and my wife Barbara Connor (Wife Representative to the Board) for their support.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
Deacon Joseph Connor  
President of National Association of Black Deacons