



ProDiaconiaChristi
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The Countenance of the Church in the Everyday Life of People?

The significance of the diaconate for a diaconal Church

March 18th-21st, 2020 in the Academy of
the Diocese of Rottenburg Stuttgart,
Conference Centre Hohenheim, Germany

International Symposium

March 18th – 21st, 2020

International Symposium

50 years after its reintroduction by the Second Vatican Council the diaconate has become, in many parts of the world, a firm component of the local Churches. At the same time, this ministry, so very necessary to the life of the Church (LG 29) is still seeking its adequate place in a diaconal Church.

Why does the Church need a sacramental diaconate? Despite the intense efforts which have been made – does the ministry have sufficient identity? How can one describe the unity and diversity within the sacramental *ordo*? Is any specific task assigned to this ministry?

In the African and Asian Churches, the diaconate hasn't taken roots up to now. –what are the conditions which could make that happen?

In addition, the debate about the diaconate about the diaconate for women in the Church has not quieted down.

The above questions show that the discussion on the place of the diaconate – from the point of view of its ecclesiological significance, of systematic theology and of pastoral practice – has been going on since its reestablishment. The International Symposium approaches these questions from an international - ecclesial perspective and tries to grasp the significance of the diaconate for a diaconal Church.

Wednesday, March 18th

- 19:00 Opening, welcome greetings
Deacon Gerald DuPont, IDC President,
Bishop Gebhard Fürst, IDC Protector
- 19:20 Does a diaconal Church need the diaconate?
Antonio Cardinal Tagle, Cardinal Prefect of the
Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.
(tentatively accepted)
- 20:00 Awarding of the *Diaconia Christi* Prize, followed by a buffet
Bishop Gebhard Fürst

Thursday, March 19th

- 07:00 Holy Mass (**Bishop Gebhard Fürst**; German)
- 08:00 Breakfast
- 09:00 Why and for which Purpose is there an ordained ministry in
the Church? The answer of the Letter to the Ephesians
Michael Theobald, Germany
- 10:00 The tasks of the deacons before the heyday of the ministry
Esko Ryökäs, Lathi, Finland
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 Questions, discussion
- 11:30 Why does the Church need a sacrament of the Holy Orders?
Serena Noceti, Florence, Italy
- 12:30 Lunch
- 14:30 Why does the Church need a sacrament of the diaconate?
William Ditewig, Lutz, Florida, USA
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 Unity and diversity within the same Ordo
Johanna Rahner, Tübingen, Germany

- 17:00 Discussion by language groups
18:00 Dinner
19:00 Panel discussion (with fishbowl)
Speakers of the day (possibly also Bishops or other participants)
21:00 Compline

Friday, March 20th

- 07:00 Holy Mass (English)
08:00 Breakfast
09:00 Universal and particular priesthood: where is the deacon?
Santiago del Cura Elena, Burgos, Spain
10:00 Pastoral Implications of diaconal ministry
Valburga Schmiedt Streck, Brasil
10:30 Coffee break
11:00 Discussion
11:30 Young and fresh – The Diaconate in Lithuania; and Eastern Europe?
Auxiliary Bishop Algirdas Jurevicius, Kaunas, Lithuania
12:30 Lunch
14:30 What deacons do and perhaps should not do – the specialist for the unspecific?
Deacon Norbert Hark, Limburg, Germany
Deacon Gerald DuPont, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, USA
15:30 Coffee break
16:00 The diversity of the diaconate across the world (**World Café**)
IDC Delegates and other deacons
17:30 The diaconate in the Orthodox Church
Petros Vassiliadis, Thessaloniki, Greece
18:00 Dinner
19:00 Discussion on the diaconate for women
Sr. Sara Butler, Chicago, USA

Representing „Christus diakonos“
A plea for the sacramental diaconate for women
Margit Eckholt, Osnabrück, Germany

21:00 Compline

Saturday, March 21st

07:00 Holy Mass (Spanish)

08:00 Breakfast

9:00 Does a diaconal Church in Africa need the diaconate?
Archbishop Charles Palmer-Buckle, Archdiocese of Cape
Coast, Ghana

9:45 The diaconate in a diaconal Church – an attempt at a
synthesis
Klaus Kießling, Frankfurt, Germany

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 The ministry of the deacon – opportunities and challenges
Beniamino Cardinal Stella, Congregation for the Clergy
(requested)

11:45 Evaluation

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Sight Seeing / cultural programme

Sunday, March 22nd

07:000 Holy Mass

8:00 Breakfast

09:00 Sight Seeing / cultural programme

Languages (simultaneous): German / English / Spanish

Conference Fees

200.00 € (South America, Africa, Asia)

300.00 € (all others)

Bank coordinates for German participants: the bank coordinates will be sent to you together with the confirmation of your participation.

All other participants will pay upon arrival by credit card or in cash (€).

Accommodation

Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg Stuttgart
Conference Centre Hohenheim / Germany



Registration

By Email: weishaupt@akademie-rs.de

Registration deadline: **October 2019**

Location

Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg Stuttgart
Conference Centre Hohenheim / Germany
[Address](#): Paracelsusstraße 91, 70599 Stuttgart
[Phone](#): 0049 (0)711 451034600



Organizer

International Diaconate Centre (IDC)

Partners

- Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart
- Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas
- Department for Pastoral and Commission for Vocations and and Church Ministries of the German Bishops' Conference
- Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart



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