



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEACONS

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UPDATE

New norms, guidelines on the permanent diaconate

THREE of us met with the Bishops Commission for Church Ministry in Sydney last week. It was a warm and friendly meeting.

The big news is that the Australian bishops approved new norms and guidelines for the permanent diaconate in Australia at their meeting last November, and sent them to Rome. The norms must be approved by Rome. We don't know how long that will take. Once they have been approved, the bishops will release the norms and the guidelines together.

The three of us who met the bishops were Deacon Russ Nelson, NAD secretary; Deacon Tony Aspinall, national coordinator for the permanent diaconate; and me.

Hobart conference

AS YOU know, the next NAD conference will be in Hobart in just over 12 months – from 23 to 26 March 2017.

We've had word that two international experts on the permanent diaconate will join us for the conference – Rev Professor Klaus Kiesling, IDC (International Diaconate Centre) president, and IDC manager, Dr Stefan Sander. Klaus is a deacon, Stefan is a lay theologian. The IDC is based in Germany.

We'll have details about the conference later.

Nick Kerr, NAD chair, March 4, 2016