

“Fulfilling the Ministry of Diaconal Service Beyond the Parish”



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Marriage/Single and Diaconate



Pope Francis in his
address to
Deacons on 19
June 2021



- Deacons are the custodians of service in the Church.
- We are all called to lower ourselves, because Jesus stooped to us, He made himself the servant of all.



- Deacons remind us of this when, like the deacon Saint Francis, they bring God's closeness to others without imposing themselves, serving with humility and joy.



“It is the Lord!”

Jn 21:5,7

- I expect you to be sentinels: not only to know how to spot the poor and the distant - this is not so difficult - but to help the Christian community to recognise Jesus in the poor and the distant



- "Look at our deacon! He is happy to be with the poor, but also with the parish priest and even with his children and his wife!" Even with his mother-in-law, that's very important!

James 2: 14, 17, 18b

My brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save one, has it? So it is with the faith that does nothing in practice. It is thoroughly lifeless. Show me faith without works, and I will show you the faith that underlies my works!

LOH Tuesday EP, Week 1

In the great imperial metropolis seven places were organised, **distinct from the parishes** and distributed throughout the city's municipalities, in which deacons carried out grass-roots work on behalf of the entire Christian community, especially the “least of these”, so that, as the Acts of the Apostles say, none among them would be in need (cf. 4:34).

Vatican II

- Vatican Council II, which understood the diaconate as a “proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy”. [*Lumen Gentium*](#), after describing the function of presbyters as a participation in the priestly function of Christ, illustrates the ministry of deacons, “upon whom”, it says, “hands are imposed not unto the priesthood, but unto a ministry of service”
- emphasises that deacons are above all - above all - “dedicated to duties of charity and of administration” ([*Lumen Gentium*](#), 29).

Deacons can and do go places Priests do not/
can not

- Marketplace Ministries
- Social circles
- Urbanija – number of parishioners

St. Francis of Assisi
Deacon

“Preach the
Gospel at all
times, and
when
necessary, use
words.”





Discernment
entering Aspirancy
and
Formation

Formation and Discernment

It is not so much what a Deacon does...

Rather, **WHO** a Deacon is...

Take the Church to the Poor and bring
the Poor to the Church (**Intercessions**)



Already living the life of a
Deacon

Active in Church service
Market Place Ministry
Community Involvement

Descriptors (from Pope Francis' address)

- Willingness
- Humility
- Of service
- Humble
- Inclusive
- Open
- Not revolve around them
- Docile
- Loving
- Joyous, without complaining
- Let all the good you do be a secret between you and God
- Be good husbands, fathers, grandfathers

National Directory – Paragraph 174 (1/2)

- “natural inclination of service” to the Christian community and to all in need.
- Psychological integrity
- Capacity for dialogue
- Docility
- Openness
- Ability to share one’s faith and listen respectfully to others
- Capacity to listen carefully w/o prejudice's
- Respect people in context of their, religion, race, gender, ethnicity, & culture.

National Directory - Paragraph 174 (2/2)

- Good communication skills
- Sense of responsibility - fulfilling one's word & completing one's work
- Self-directed and collaborative
- Balanced and prudent judgement
- Ability to lead, motivate, facilitate and animate

National Directory – Paragraph 175 (1/2)


- Certain spiritual and evangelical qualities
- Sound faith, good Christian reputation
- Active involvement in the Church's apostolate
- Personal integrity
- Maturity
- Holiness
- Regular participate in sacramental life of the Church
- Recognized ongoing commitment to the Church's life and service
- Participation the faith enrichment activities
- Stable marriage or mature celibate

National Directory – Paragraph 175 (2/2)

- Active membership in Christian community
- Capacity for obedience and fraternal communion
- Deep spirituality and prayer life

National Directory - Paragraph 176 (1/1)

- Community commitments



Formation Programs



Add component into formation

My Story

Current
Market Place
Ministry

- Mentor vs. Collinwood
- Seminary
- Funerals
- Baptisms
- Weddings
- Theology on the Rocks
- Salida Woods
- Former military service

Liturgy

- Blessings
- Funeral homes
- Cemeteries
- Sick calls
- Communion services
- Weddings outside parishes
- Memorial Services

Liturgy - In Proactive

- Supermarket Prayer & Blessing
- Cemetery committals
- Assisted Living Communion Services
- Funeral Homes – Chapel Services

Word

- Theology on the Rocks
- Theology on Tap
- Small Church groups
- Bible Study
- Approved Social Media usage
- Inter-faith or ecumenical groups

Word - In Proactive

- Theology on the Rocks
- Bible Study - Incarcerated
- Small Group Homes

Charity

- Hot Meals
- Homeless Shelters
- Community Food Pantries
- Helping neighbors Programs
- Incarcerated

The rich can hide things more easily

Charity -In Proactive

- Clown Ministry
- Van Ministry to Bridge & Clothing Homeless
- Hospital/ Nursing Home / Hospice / Sick Calls
- Salvation Army
- John Green - Chicago
- Habitat for Humanity

Go out...

- "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age"

Matthew 28:19-20



Questions & Answers

Discussion