

1152 Deacon Life and Ministry General Issues

The Division of Clergy Personnel

1152 DEACON LIFE AND MINISTRY GENERAL ISSUES

1152.1 Deacon Life in General

1152.1.1 Service to the Archdiocese and Cooperation Among the Clergy

- Depending on his state in life, the priorities of the deacon are generally considered to be: (1) family; (2) work; and (3) ministry, in that order. The amount of time a deacon devotes to each of these obligations will be determined by the deacon's available time in consideration of this order of priority.
- All clergy, by virtue of their sacred ordination and their common mission, namely the building up of the Body of Christ, are to be so united among themselves by the bonds of fraternity and of prayer such that they strive for cooperation among themselves in accord with the prescriptions of particular law. Canon 275, §1
- To the extent that their regular duties permit, all deacons are urged to make themselves available for service on one or more of the various councils, commissions, boards, and other bodies which presently exist, or which may be created from time to time to further the total pastoral life of the Archdiocese.

1152.1.2 Obligation of the Liturgy of the Hours

- Deacons should know the nature and structure of the Liturgy of the Hours and be able to lead it publicly.
- Deacons are obliged to pray Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer daily. Although permanent deacons are not bound by the universal church law to say the whole of the Liturgy of the Hours every day, they should not hold themselves lightly excused from the obligation to pray Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer.
- Deacon candidates should be introduced to and be encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours since it is the official prayer of the Church and gives a firm liturgical direction to their prayer.
- Deacons should promote this treasury of prayers to the laity, particularly through its common celebration in the local parish. Canon 276 §2, 3^o

1152.1.3 Pursuit of Holiness

- By virtue of their consecration to God in the reception of orders, clerics are especially bound to pursue holiness.
- In order for them to pursue this perfection, they are bound to:
 - Fulfill faithfully and untiringly the duties of pastoral ministry;
 - Nourish their spiritual life from the two-fold table of Sacred Scripture and the Eucharist, therefore deacons are earnestly invited to participate daily in the Eucharist;
 - Be conscientious in devoting time regularly to prayer, in approaching the sacrament of penance frequently, and to cultivate special devotion to the Virgin Mother of God; and
 - To use other common and particular means for their sanctification. Canon 276

1152.2 Accessibility

Within reason, when away for an extended period on vacation or any other cause, every deacon should be able to be reached - that is,

someone in the parish, institution, or agency where he regularly discharges his duties should know his whereabouts and how he can be expeditiously contacted in cases of special needs and/or emergencies. Normally, special contact should be limited to special/emergency needs of the parish, institution, or agency.

1152.3 Attire

- The wearing of clerical attire aids in communicating that a permanent deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church. While the wearing of clerical attire in these limited situations serves as a witness to others, it also reminds deacons of their lifelong commitment to the ministry of service.
- The policy of the Archdiocese is for permanent deacons to wear a clerical collar and a gray clerical shirt, with a black suit as may be appropriate, on the following occasions:
 - ministering to people in correctional facilities;
 - visiting hospitals, nursing homes, and the homebound;
 - officiating at weddings;
 - attending or presiding at wake services and other funeral rites; and
 - giving an invocation or addressing a secular group as a representative of the Archdiocese or parish.
- It may also be appropriate to wear clerical attire when participating in a clerical role on other occasions, such as archdiocesan, parish, or interfaith activities.
- Exceptions to the guidelines may be made by a local pastor or supervisor where the circumstances are considered advisable, including whether to expand or to limit the situations when a permanent deacon should wear clerical attire in the parish or other placement.
- In addition, a permanent deacon may choose to vest in alb and stole or other appropriate vestments rather than clerical attire at funeral rites. Clerical attire would be appropriate for other activities in connection with weddings and funeral rites as well.

1152.4 Civil Courts

- **Called as Witness in a Lawsuit:** If a deacon is summoned to appear in any court as defendant or witness, he shall immediately report the fact and the circumstances to the Archbishop and the Chancellor.
- **Management of the Goods of Others:** In order to preserve the reputation of the Church and the deacon, the following are to be observed by permanent deacons:
 - A deacon may manage the goods belonging to others which entail a requiring of accounts in these cases:
 - On behalf of a deacon's family members; and/or
 - When the deacon's secular employment requires it (attorneys, bankers, etc.).
 - A deacon