

## **FACULTIES FOR DEACONS**

**WILLIAM S. SKYLSTAD**  
**Bishop of Spokane**

**to**

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In virtue of ordination to the Diaconate you are commissioned in the service of the Church:

- to discharge the office of deacon with humility and love in order to assist the Bishop and the priests and to serve the people of Christ.
- to hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience, and to proclaim this faith in word and action as it is taught in the Gospel and in the Church's tradition as taught by the Magisterium.
- to be the minister of charity, that by your work and word the saving presence of Christ might be discovered in the midst of those you serve.
- to minister the mysteries of Christ faithfully and religiously in the Church and for all God's people, and to build up the Body of Christ.

In order to promote the pastoral care of the People of God and as an expression of your participation in the active ministry of the Diaconate of the Diocese of Spokane, I am pleased to issue you the attached "Faculties."

In the exercise of these faculties, you are to work in close collaboration with the priests who share the prime responsibility for the ministry to these same people.

These faculties are valid for the duration of your diaconal ministry in the Diocese of Spokane, or until revoked.

Given at Spokane, Washington, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

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Bishop of Spokane

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Chancellor

## FACULTIES FOR PERMANENT DEACONS

These faculties concern permanent deacons incardinated in the Diocese of Spokane who have been assigned to a parish or to some pastoral ministry by the Diocesan Bishop.

Canon Law and liturgical norms govern the sacred rites. The deacon is bound by these norms when he assists or presides at the liturgy. He is, furthermore, to exercise the ministry of the liturgy according to any Diocesan guidelines for the administration of the sacraments. The deacon's liturgical functions and leadership in prayer are always to be carried out in harmony with the pastor of the parish.

Although the ministry of the liturgy is a proper diaconal function, the extent of the deacon's liturgical ministry will vary according to his particular assignment and circumstances. The deacon's ministry of love and justice enjoys a certain primacy. By ordination the deacon is particularly and officially committed to service (see Permanent Deacons, Guidelines on their Formation and Ministry, Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate, 1984, nn. 35-38).

Those deacons who are married are reminded that their service as ministers of Christ is first of all to one's wife as faithful and loving spouse and to one's children as a thoughtful and provident father, and then to others in the parish family to whom the deacon is assigned by the Bishop.

1. The deacon is an ordinary minister of the sacrament of baptism (Canon 861.1). With the permission of the pastor, a deacon may baptize infants according to the Rite of Infant Baptism, having instructed the parents. He prepares adults for initiation into the Church in accord with the norms of the Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults.

2. The deacon assists the priest in the celebration of the sacrament of the Eucharist in accord with liturgical norms.

When the ministry of a priest is lacking, the deacon may preside at the Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside Mass.

The deacon may preside at the liturgy of benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Canon 943).

The deacon is an ordinary minister of Holy Communion for the sick. The deacon may bring Holy Communion to the dying in the form of Viaticum with at least the presumed permission of the pastor (Canon 911.2).

3. Deacons who are assigned as administrators of parishes enjoy the faculty to assist at marriages within the boundaries of the parish to which they are assigned. Other deacons may assist at marriages by delegation from the priest authorized to assist at the marriage. The Rite of Matrimony is to be used and the Diocesan Guidelines for preparation of marriage are to be observed.

Deacons who are assigned as administrators of parishes possess the faculty to:

a.) Dispense from the impediment of disparity of cult.

b.) Permit the marriage of a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic provided that the requirements of Canon 1125 concerning such marriages are fulfilled.

c.) Permit marriages in which one or the other party is bound by natural obligations arising from a prior union (c. 1071.1n.3)

4. Deacons may preside at funeral rites except for the celebration of the Eucharist itself. These Rites include the vigil, the non-Eucharist rites in the Church, the final commendation and the rites at the cemetery.

5. Deacons may preside at the communal celebration of the liturgy of the Hours. Deacons are urged to pray morning and evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours.

6. Deacons enjoy the faculty to preach (Canon 764). Deacons may always preach on those occasions when they preside at a Liturgical Rite. With the consent of the presiding minister, deacons may also preach at any celebration of the Eucharist and at any celebration of the sacraments in which the deacon is not the presiding minister.

7. A deacon can impart only those blessings which are expressly permitted to him by law (C. 1169.3). A deacon can give blessings which are part of the liturgical celebration at which he presides: marriage, baptism, Holy Communion and Viaticum outside of Mass, Morning and Evening Prayer, non-sacramental penance services and the blessing with the Holy Eucharist at benediction.

Approved by Bishop William S. Skylstad

April 16, 1992

## DEFINITION OF DIACONAL STATUS

Active Deacon	A deacon authorized for public ministry, who has been granted faculties and a definite assignment by the Bishop.
Inactive Deacon	A deacon whose assignment for public ministry has been suspended or withdrawn.
Faculties	The authorization granted to an ordained minister by canon law or a competent authority to carry out specified ministerial functions. (See specific faculties in appendix B)
Incardination	The canonical bond between the deacon and the diocese, effected at the time of ordination.
Non-Incardinated	A deacon residing in one diocese while remaining canonically bound (incardinated) to another.
Laicized Deacon	A deacon who has been removed from the clerical state by a rescript of the Holy See or by a penalty. The deacon is no longer bound by the obligations or enjoys the rights of the diaconate.
Leave of Absence	A deacon incardinated in the diocese who has been granted permission to withdraw from active ministry.
Ministerial Agreement	An agreement among the deacon, his wife, his pastoral authority and the bishop defining responsibilities of the deacon and expectations of his assignment.
Pastoral Authority	A deacon's immediate supervisor in the exercise of his public ministry as identified in his ministerial agreement