

David Lopez

DEACONS

>PAGELLA of FACULTIES GRANTED to all DEACONS of the DIOCESE OF SIOUX CITY (19 December 2006; Bishop Nickless)

1. The Deacons of the Diocese of Sioux City are chosen from among God's People to serve God and mankind in love and joy, following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. Dedicated to the office of deacon to minister at the Lord's Holy Altar, they have received the Holy Spirit, so that, strengthened by the gift of His sevenfold grace, they may faithfully carry out the work of the ministry.
2. Therefore, in order that they may excel in every virtue: in love that is sincere, in concern for the sick and the poor, in unassuming authority, in self-discipline, and in holiness of life; in order that their conduct may exemplify the commandments of the Lord, and lead His people to imitate His purity of life; and in order that they may remain strong and steadfast in Christ, giving to the world the witness of a pure conscience, we impart to them our blessing and exhortation:
 - a. The deacon is to live a truly Christian life, to exhibit an upright character, and to show by his nature and disposition a genuine commitment to his ministry.
 - b. The deacon serves the mysteries of Christ and the Church, and must abstain from any vice, strive to please God, and "be ready for any good work" (II Tim 2:21) for the salvation of all. Therefore, he should give worthy example to others in his liturgical life, in devotion to prayer, in the divine ministry, in obedience, in chastity, and in charity.
 - c. The deacon shall apply himself diligently to reading carefully and meditating attentively on the Word of God. He is to assist at Mass frequently, even daily if possible; to receive the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist and visit it out of devotion; to purify his soul frequently through daily examination of conscience and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - d. The deacon shall show great love and veneration to Mary, the Virgin Mother of God. He is to make an annual retreat in a manner designated or approved by the Bishop of Sioux City. He shall recite daily the recommended portion of the Divine Office: the whole of the Office for transitional deacons, and at least Morning Prayer (Lauds) and Evening Prayer (Vespers) for permanent deacons.
 - e. The deacon shall devote himself to ecclesiastical studies, so as to be able to explain clearly and correctly to others the treasury of Catholic doctrine.
 - f. Because the deacon shares in the ministry of the Bishop, he shall not fail to manifest to the Bishop of Sioux City respect and obedience.
 - g. "Since clerics all work for the same purpose, namely, the building up of the Body of Christ, they are to be united among themselves by a bond of brotherhood and prayer and are to strive for cooperation among themselves" in all things (c. 275).
3. In order, then, that all Deacons of the Diocese of Sioux City may fulfill their God-given duties to us and to all people, believers and unbelievers alike, they shall be granted the following Faculties:
 - a. The deacon is an ordinary minister of the sacrament of Baptism (c. 861.1). He may administer Baptism to infants up to age seven throughout the Diocese of Sioux City, with at least the presumed permission of the territorial pastor and of the pastor of the one to be baptized (cc. 530.1, 862).
 - b. The deacon is an ordinary minister of Holy Communion (c. 910.1). He may have custody of the Blessed Sacrament for purpose of distribution to the sick and homebound, and others, in accordance with canon 935. In case of serious need or with at least the presumed permission of the ordinary or the pastor, he may administer Holy Communion to the sick or dying as Viaticum, using the proper *Rite of Anointing*, §101-114 (c. 911).
 - c. The deacon is a minister of the Rite of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Eucharistic Benediction (c. 943).
 - d. The deacon may assist at marriages for which he has been properly delegated (c. 1108). In accordance with canon 1111.1, the Bishop of Sioux City or the pastor may grant, in writing, general delegation to assist at marriages within the canonical territory to which the deacon is assigned. In accordance with canon 1111.2, special delegation for a specific marriage outside the assigned territory may be granted to the deacon by the local ordinary or the local pastor.

- e. The deacon is to “serve the People of God in the ministry of the Word in communion with the Bishop and his presbyterate” (c. 757), and is to “hold the function of preaching in esteem.” (c. 762) The deacon has the faculty to preach everywhere throughout the Diocese of Sioux City, with at least the presumed consent of the pastor or local superior (cc. 764, 765, 767).
 - f. The deacon is an ordinary minister of the Church’s sacramentals (c. 1168), and may impart those blessings expressly permitted to him by law (c. 1169.3): namely, blessings at Rites at which the deacon presides, including liturgy of the hours, baptism, marriage, Holy Communion and Viaticum outside Mass, Eucharistic Benediction, and non-sacramental penitential services; and those blessings permitted to deacons in the *Book of Blessings* and the *De Benedictionibus*.
 - g. In accordance with canon 530.5, the “celebration of the funeral liturgy is especially entrusted to pastors and associate pastors” (OCF 14). When no priest is available, the deacon may preside at the Church’s funeral Rites for her faithful (c. 1176; OCF 14).
 - h. In light of canon 284, the deacon may choose to wear clerical dress when he is actively engaged in public ministry. Clerical dress for deacons of the Diocese of Sioux City consists of black suit, clerical collar, and deacon cross worn as pin or pendant.
4. May the Deacons of this Diocese of Sioux City faithfully imitate in this life Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came not to serve but to be served; and may they one day reign with Him in Heaven.
 5. Given in Sioux City, Iowa, on this 19th day of December, 2006
 6. Most Reverend R. Walker Nickless, D.D.
 7. Bishop of Sioux City

>New Policy on Parish Support for Permanent Deacons (7 May 2007; Nickless)

The policies of the Diocese of Sioux City, following the norms of Canon Law (cc. 276, 279, 281), require that parishes support the continuing education and the annual retreat of pastors. In fairness to our permanent deacons, who are equally included in the canons noted, I hope that parishes will support equally the continuing education and annual retreat of active permanent deacons assigned to them. Therefore, I wish to establish the policy, beginning in the 2007-08 fiscal year (that is, beginning 1 July 2007), that any parish to which an active deacon has been assigned should budget \$200 per year for each deacon’s annual retreat, and \$250 per year for each deacon’s continuing education needs. The same or similar documentation as required for the pastor shall be required for the deacon in requesting these funds from the parish.