

DECREE

Clerical Address and Attire for the Permanent Diaconate

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

Whereas the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops released the second edition of the National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States in September 2021.

Whereas the updated directory notes that the Congregation for the Clergy has determined that in all forms of address for permanent deacons, the appropriate title is: 'Deacon'.

Whereas the Code of Canon Law does not oblige permanent deacons to wear ecclesiastical garb.

Whereas permanent deacons are prominent and active in secular professions and society, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops specifies that permanent deacons should resemble the lay faithful in dress and matters of lifestyle.

And, whereas the diocesan bishop should determine and promulgate any exceptions to the law, as well as specify the appropriate clerical attire that is to be worn.

Therefore, I hereby decree that the normal attire for permanent deacons is secular dress, however, when formally engaged in ministry, the deacon has the option to wear clerical garb.

Ministry includes such things as diaconal activity outside of the parish, notably: visits to hospitals, prisons/jails, hospices, and nursing homes; presiding at funeral home wakes or services; visible participation in charitable outreach; or when the deacon is leading the faithful in prayer outside of the parish setting. Ministry also includes such things as diaconal activity inside of the parish, notably: Order of Christian Initiation or other religious instruction; school classroom visits; while assisting at Mass or other liturgies; or other special parish or school events.

Clerical garb for a permanent deacon engaged in ministry is a gray clerical shirt with Roman collar. The wearing of a black clerical shirt with Roman collar is not permitted. When wearing a Roman collar, the deacon should abstain from wearing a diaconal cross around his neck. He may wear a diaconal pin on his coat lapel.

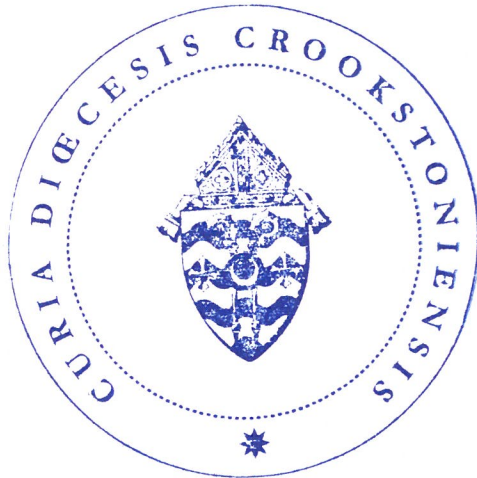
Also, therefore, a permanent deacon shall not wear clerical attire while engaged in the pursuit of his secular profession or when involved in personal or leisure activities, either when alone or with his family.

Also, therefore, the dalmatic, in appropriate liturgical colors, together with the alb, cincture and stole, shall be the liturgical dress proper to deacons.

This decree takes effect for all permanent deacons incardinated or serving in the Diocese of Crookston on January 1, 2024.

+Andrew H. Cozzens

+Most Rev. Andrew Cozzens
Bishop of Crookston



Given at the Chancery
This 22nd day of November, 2023.

Janelle Gergen

Mrs. Janelle Gergen
Chancellor