

“.....so what does a Deacon do?”

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received at St. Ann's parish. I look forward to being of service to our parish community and the Archdiocese in the months and years ahead.

I have been asked and others may be wondering, “.....so what is a deacon? What do you do?”

Since the Archdiocese has never had permanent deacons before, I thought it might be a good idea to give some insight into a deacon's ministry. The paragraphs below outline the role of the deacon, and his ministry.

1. A deacon is an ordained minister in the Catholic Church. Like bishops and priests, deacons have received the Sacrament of Holy Orders and are members of the clergy. At the same time, deacons live “in the world”, with typical family and work responsibilities.
2. While bishops and priests are ordained for ministerial participation in the high priesthood of Christ, deacons are ordained for ministry and service. They are “living icons” of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to be the “deacon”, or servant, of all. (see Mk. 10:45)
3. At the direction of their bishop and pastors, deacons serve the Church through ministries of the word, liturgy, and charity. As ministers of the word, they advance the “new evangelization”---at home and work, and in the parish and local community. This ministry includes many forms of outreach, preaching, teaching, and catechesis, all done in the name of the Church.
4. The deacon's liturgical ministry includes specific roles in the celebration of Mass, where he represents the faithful and helps them to unite their lives and concerns to the offering of Christ. Deacons also baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services.
5. Deacons are especially known for their commitment to social concerns and works of charity. They identify the needs of others and then marshal the Church's material and spiritual resources to meet those needs.

I am very blessed and thankful to be assigned to St. Ann's parish family, to help serve the parish and community. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with me.

Peace of Christ,
Deacon Todd Brower