

## **Diocese of Beaumont**

### **DEPARTMENT OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE**

### **FACULTIES FOR PERMANENT DEACONS**

(January 2006)

Faculties are granted to deacons for the fruitfulness of their ministry and for the spiritual well-being of those they will serve.

#### **BAPTISM**

1. To solemnly baptize in accord with Canon 861, unless Confirmation is to follow in the same ceremony. The baptism of adults (C. 852) is reserved to priests since the Sacrament of Confirmation must be conferred at the same time by the same minister. A Deacon may not baptize outside the parish to which he is assigned without, at least, the presumed consent of the pastor of that place or in the case of an emergency. Baptisms are to be recorded in the parish where the baptism took place.

#### **EUCCHARIST**

2.
  - a. To distribute Holy Communion during and outside of Mass (C. 910.1)
  - b. To distribute Viaticum to the dying and Holy Communion to the sick. Care must be taken that the infirm are informed and given the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance and the Sacrament of the Sick if they so desire.
  - c. To impart Eucharistic Benediction (C. 943). This includes wearing the cope, the humeral veil, exposing the Blessed Sacrament, and giving the blessing with the monstrance.
  - d. To exercise the office of Deacon in liturgical celebrations
  - e. To dispense an individual in a specific instance, for a just reason, from the Eucharistic fast (C. 919.1)

#### **SCRIPTURE**

3.
  - a. To proclaim the Gospel during Liturgical Rites (C. 757)
  - b. To conduct Scripture and Eucharistic Services in the absence of a priest.

#### **PREACHING**

4. To deliver the homily at Mass and to preach at other religious services in the place of assignment (C. 764). A Deacon may preach outside the parish to which he is assigned, as long as there is at least the presumed consent of the pastor of the Church, unless the faculty to preach has been restricted or taken away by the competent authority, or unless express permission is required by particular law.

#### **MARRIAGE**

5. To witness marriages in the parish to which the Deacon is assigned (C. 1111.1). To witness a marriage outside the parish to which the Deacon is assigned with the (written) delegation and permission from the pastor of that place. The marriage preparation requirements of the subject's diocese must be followed. Marriages are to be recorded in the parish of the ceremony, and pre-nuptial documents are to be kept there except in cases of dispensation from canonical form. Such a marriage is to be recorded and the pre-nuptial documents are to be kept in the parish of the pre-nuptial preparation.

- a. When everything has been prepared for the marriage and when the marriage cannot be delayed without the probable danger of grave harm until the dispensation can be obtained from the competent authority, and the competent authority cannot be contacted by telephone prior to the ceremony, the Deacon is authorized to dispense from the impediments to marriage which may be dispensed by the local Ordinary (C. 1079.2). Therefore, in an *omnia parata* situation, Deacons may dispense from the following impediments:
  - Age (C. 1083.1)
  - Disparity of worship (C. 1086)
  - Abduction (C. 1089)
  - Consanguinity, except in the direct line or in the second degree of the collateral line (C. 1091)
  - Affinity in the direct line (C. 1092)
  - Public propriety (C. 1093)
  - Legal relationship based on adoption in the direct line or in the second degree of the collateral line (C. 1094)
  - However, in an *omnia parata* situation, the Deacon may grant permission for a mixed marriage, but only when the conditions mentioned in Canon 1125 are fulfilled.

In the above cases, the Deacon is to make a notation on the marriage application and in the marriage register and to notify the local Ordinary in writing within three (3) days (C. 1081).
- b. Dispensation from canonical form is reserved to the local Ordinary or his delegate (C. 1127.2).
- c. The following are reserved impediments and may not be dispensed by priests or Deacons:
  - Those of divine law, e.g. impotence, ligamen (prior bond), consanguinity in the direct line or in the second degree of the collateral line (CC. 1078.3, 1084, 1085.1, 1091)
  - Sacred Orders and the public perpetual vow of chastity in an Institute of Pontifical Right (CC. 1078 §2.1, 1087, 1088)
  - Conjugicide (C. 1078 §2.2) [The various degrees of *crimen* in the 1917 Code have been reduced to Conjugicide – bringing about the death of one’s spouse.]
- d. To administer the Nuptial Blessing outside of Mass; however, when the marriage is celebrated within Mass, the Nuptial Blessing is always given by the celebrant of the Mass, even if the Deacon witnesses the exchange of vows.
- e. To administer the oath and complete the premarital investigation.
- f. To initiate the process of convalidation of marriage.
- g. To initiate the process for petitioning a Declaration of Nullity.

## FUNERALS

6.
  - a. To conduct services
  - b. To accompany the body from the funeral home to the church
  - c. To preside at funerals outside of the Mass
  - d. To conduct the rite of final commendation
  - e. To lead the prayers at the cemetery
  - f. To conduct funeral rites for an unbaptized child after the pastor or parochial vicar has determined that the parents had intended to have the child baptized (C. 1183.2)
  - g. To conduct church funeral rites for a baptized person belonging to another Christian church or ecclesial community, after the pastor or parochial vicar has determined that this is not clearly contrary to the wishes of the deceased and provided that a minister of the faith of the deceased, for whatever reason, is not available (C. 1183.3)

## SACRAMENTALS

7.
  - a. To bless medals and other religious articles with the sign of the cross
  - b. To administer the invocative blessings found in the Ritual (C. 1169.3)

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

8. Deacons have an obligation, established by the Church, to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours every day according to the approved liturgical books and in the manner determined by the Episcopal Conference. Deacons may dispense themselves from the obligation of praying the Divine Office, especially Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, when family or work duties or other activities particular to their style of life present a serious reason for omitting the Liturgy of the Hours (1971 P. D. in U.S. Guidelines, n. 63). Deacons are expected to know the nature and structure of the Liturgy of the Hours and be able to lead them publicly.

The 1971 Guidelines of the United States Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate state that Deacons can very appropriately pray the liturgical hours of Lauds and Vespers as expressing the praise of God from the entire church community (#163). The U.S. Bishops' Administrative Committee has advised that, although Deacons are not bound by the universal church law to say the whole of the Liturgy of the Hours every day, Deacons should not hold themselves lightly excused from the obligation they have to celebrate Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer.

The Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy states that, in view of the particular life and circumstances of most Deacons, it is appropriate that the Liturgy of the Hours be prayed with their families (BCL Newsletter, 18 [1977], 88).