

THE PASTORAL QUALITIES OF THE DEACON

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Role model

- * Do you have a role model as a deacon?
- * What are the pastoral qualities of that person?



διακονία performed by New Testament women

- * Peter's mother-in-law (Mt 8:14-15)
- * Women following Jesus to serve (Mt 27:55, Lk 8:3)
- * Martha needing help with serving (Lk 10:40)

Homily

- * “...they will **help** the Bishop and his Priests in the ministry of the word, of the altar, and of charity, showing themselves to be **servants to all**. As ministers of the **altar**, they will proclaim the Gospel, prepare the Sacrifice, and distribute the Lord’s Body and Blood to the faithful.”

New Testament

- * The first must be last and the servant of all (Mk 9:35)

Homily

- * “Furthermore, it will be their **duty**, at the Bishop’s direction, to **exhort** believers and unbelievers alike and to **instruct** them in holy doctrine. They will **preside** over public prayer, administer **Baptism**, assist at and bless Marriages, bring Viaticum to the dying, and conduct funeral rites.”

New Testament

- * Different forms of service but same Lord (1 Cor 12:5)
- * The gifts of God allow service to happen (Eph 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- * Philip evangelizing and baptizing (Acts 8:4-14, 26-40; 21:8)
- * Stephanas (1 Cor 16:15), Phoebe (Rom 16:1), Ephaphras and Tychicus (Col 1:7; 4:7; Eph 6:21)

Homily

- * “Consecrated by the laying on of hands that comes down to us from the Apostles and bound more closely to the service of the altar, they will **perform** works of charity **in the name of the Bishop or the pastor**. With the help of God, they are to go about all these duties in such a way that you will recognize them as **disciples** of him who came **not to be served but to serve.**”

New Testament

- * Letter addressed to the holy ones including “overseers and ministers” (Phil 1:1)
- * Jesus came not to be served, but to serve (Mt 20:28, Mk10:45)

Homily

- * “... The **Lord** has set an **example** that just as he himself has done you also should do.
- * “As Deacons, that is, as **ministers** of Jesus Christ, who came among his disciples **as one who served**, do the will of God from the heart: **serve** the people in love and joy as you would the Lord. Since no one can **serve** two masters, look upon all defilement and **avarice** as serving false gods.”

New Testament

- * Jesus came as one who serves (Lk 22:27)
- * He washed feet as an example (Jn 13:1-20)
- * Deacons should not be greedy for money (1 Tim 3:8)

Homily

- * “... you should be **men of good reputation, filled with wisdom and the Holy Spirit**, as were those once chosen by the Apostles for the ministry of charity.”

New Testament

- * So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to **serve** at table. Brothers, select from among you seven **reputable** men, **filled with the Spirit and wisdom**, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man **filled with faith and the holy Spirit**, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. (Acts 6:2-5)

Homily

- * “... Firmly rooted and grounded in faith, you are to **show** yourselves chaste and beyond reproach before God and man, as is proper for the ministers of Christ and the **stewards of God’s mysteries**. Never allow yourselves to be turned away from the **hope** offered by the Gospel.”

New Testament

- * Be stewards of God's mysteries (1 Cor 4:1)
- * “persevere in the faith, firmly grounded, stable, and not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, am a minister” (Col 1:23)

Homily

- * “Now you are not only hearers of this Gospel but also its **ministers**. **Hold the mystery of faith with a clear conscience**. Express by your **actions** the word of God which your lips proclaim, so that the Christian people, brought to life by the Spirit, may be a **pure offering** accepted by God. Then on the last day, when you go out to meet the Lord you will be able to hear him say, ‘Well done, **good and faithful servant**, enter into the joy of your Lord.’”

New Testament

- * “holding fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience” (1 Tim 3:9)
- * God asks for a pure offering (Mal 1:11; see Eucharistic Prayer III)
- * The parable of the talents - “Well done” (Mt 25:21, 23)

Prayer of ordination

- * “May there abound in them every Gospel **virtue**: unfeigned love, concern for the sick and poor, unassuming authority, the purity of innocence, and the observance of spiritual discipline.”

- * “May your commandments shine forth in their **conduct**, so that by the example of their way of life they may inspire the imitation of your holy people. In offering the witness of a clear **conscience**, may they remain strong and steadfast in Christ, so that by imitating on earth your Son, who came **not to be served but to serve**, they may be found worthy to reign in heaven with him.”

Handing on of the Book of the Gospels

- * “Receive the **Gospel** of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.”
- * “Peace be with you.”
- * “And with your spirit.”

Solemn blessing

- * “May God who has called you to the service of others in his Church give to you great zeal for all, especially the afflicted and the poor.”
- * “May he, who has entrusted you with **preaching the Gospel of Christ**, help you, as you live according to his word, to be its sincere and fervent witnesses.”
- * “May he, who has appointed you **stewards of his mysteries**, make you **imitators of his Son, Jesus Christ**, and ministers of unity and peace in the world.”

New Testament

- * Paul and Barnabas have ministry of preaching (Acts 12:25)
- * Paul's service of evangelizing (1 Cor 3:5; 2 Cor 3:6; 11:7-8, 23; Col 1:25) and carrying contributions to Jerusalem (Rom 15:25)
- * "perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry." (1 Tim 4:5)
- * "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" 1 Cor 11:1

Angels

- * After the temptation, angels “ministered” to Jesus (Mt 4:11, Mk 1:13)
- * At Gethsemane an angel strengthened him (Lk 22:42-44)
- * At his arrest, the Father could have sent angels to rescue him (Mt 26:53)
- * αγγελος, ευαγγελιος - angels proclaim good news at Jesus’ birth and resurrection

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QUALITIES OF THE DEACON?**