

What Does a Deacon Do?

The Deacon is a minister of Liturgy, Word, and Charity . At liturgy the deacon is a visible sign of the integral connection between sharing at the Lord's table and serving the poor in the community. Deacons serve the priest at Mass, proclaim the Gospel, and may preach the homily. Deacons also preside at weddings, preside at the rite of Baptism, Communion services, funerals and Benediction, as well as administer sacramentals and blessings. As part of the ministry of Charity, deacons visit the sick in hospitals or in homes, bring Holy Communion to the homebound, visit prisons, work with the homeless and marginalized, and many other works of mercy. Deacons are "meant to be living signs of the servanthood of his Church. The service of the deacon is the Church's service sacramentalized" (Address of his Holiness John Paul II, September, 1987).