

## THE THEOLOGY OF THE DIACONATE

### Course Description

The deacon is described as "a minister of Word, Altar, Charity and Justice." In this online seminar course, an exposition of the official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church will bring to light the dogmatic foundations of the Diaconate. By researching the liturgical and social history of the Order, students will be encouraged to develop theological descriptions of the Diaconate that are consistent with the official teachings of the Magisterium.

### Course Objectives

Successful completion of this seminar will provide the student:

- An awareness of the Church's doctrine on the Order of Deacon, most especially that which is contained in the decrees of the Second Vatican Council.
- Knowledge of the various forms of the Diaconate throughout history.
- Creative theological conclusions about the shape of the Diaconate for the contemporary Church and the modern world.

### Course Expectations

Successful completion of this course requires the following:

#### **Participation at all Module sessions by listening to the PowerPoint presentations**

**Reading material as assigned:** The reading material for this course will consist of various materials (both sources and studies on the seminar subject) as assigned by the instructor. During the course the instructor will present several lectures on the theology of the Diaconate according to its biblical, historical, sociological, liturgical, and dogmatic foundations. *Please see the asterisk (\*) books that each student should have and read throughout this course*

Hopefully, the student will acquire familiarity with the official teachings of the Church on the Diaconate (*Lumen gentium; Ad gentes, Sacrum diaconatus ordinem; Ad pascendum; Basic Norms* and the *Directory on the Life & Ministry of Permanent Deacons/ Catholic Catechism, etc.*), and be cognizant of the fruits of recent scholarship, including the summary document by the International Theological Commission: *From the Diakonia of Christ to the Diakonia of the Apostles*.

**Presentation of a topic:** Each student is required to present a 5-10 minute lecture on an approved topic concerning the Diaconate and its possible future orientation. All students will give a critical analysis to the presenting student. The presenting student will be graded according to his selection of sources and studies; his appropriate use of these writings; the clarity and organization of his presentation; and his creative conclusions about the Diaconate. The other students will also be evaluated according to the constructive criticism that they will provide the presenting student in class.

**Theological reflection (3-5 pages):** Following the successful completion of their in-class presentation, students will continue the development of their thesis by incorporating the constructive criticisms of their class and instructor. A 3-5 page written theological reflection on a specific chapter from *Deacon Reader* will be submitted to the professor by the end of the last regular class period. Since this is a seminar course, no exams will be given.

## Grade Assessment

The student who successfully completes this seminar course will be given a grade calculated in the following manner:

Class participation:	30%
In-class presentation:	30%
Final Exam/Thesis:	40%

## MODULES

**Module One:** Introduction and Orientation to the Course; Reading Assignment: *The Kenotic Leadership of Deacons* (Epilogue to *The Deacon Reader*)

**Module Two:** *Diakonia* in the New Testament; Reading Assignment: *Diakonia of Christ to Diakonia of the Apostles*

**Module Three:** Christological and Pneumatological Character of Christian *Diakonia*; Reading Assignment: see power point for Scripture passages

**Module Four:** The History of the Diaconate; Early Church; Golden Age; Diaconal Functions; Deacon Popes and Saints; Reading Assignment: *The Order of Deacon Past and Present*

**Module Five:** The Decline of the Diaconate as a permanent order and historical roots of the restoration

**Module Six:** The historical beginning of the Renewal; Vatican II and the Diaconate; begin reading: *Catechism of the Catholic Church regarding any references to the Diaconate; Basic Norms; National Directory*; Recent Scholarship

**Module Seven:** The Deacon of the Word; Assignment: Develop a PowerPoint presentation explaining the deacon's unique ministry of the Word of God at Mass using the *General Instructions of the Roman Missal*

**Module Eight:** The Deacon of the Altar; Assignment: Develop a PowerPoint explaining the deacons unique ministry around the Altar at Mass using the *General Instructions of the Roman Missal*

**Module Nine:** The Deacon of Charity and Justice; Assignment: Write a 3-5 page essay explain how the deacon must "preside" over the ministry of peace and justice of the church

**Module Ten:** The Deacon and the Code of Canon Law

**Module Eleven:** The Wife of the Deacon: How Marriage and Holy Orders complement each other

**Module Twelve:** Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities facing the Diaconate today; The Rite of Ordination/Concluding to the Course

## BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE DIACONATE

**Sources** - \* and bold are the required reading – you must have access to these during the course.

\* ***Catechism of the Catholic Church. 1<sup>st</sup> English edition based on the original French.*** Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, Inc. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994.

*Code of Canon Law-English Edition. New English Translation.* Washington, D.C.: Canon Law Society of America, 1999.

\* **Congregation for Catholic Education and Congregation for the Clergy. *Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons/Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons.*** Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1998.

*Rites of Ordination of a Bishop, of Priests, and of Deacons.* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Washington, D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2003.

\* **Second Vatican Council. *Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity [Ad gentes]* (7 December 1965) in A. Flannery (ed.), *Vatican Council II Volume 1***

\* **Second Vatican Council. *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [Lumen gentium]* (21 November 1964) in Flannery, 350-440.**

\* **Second Vatican Council. *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World [Gaudium et spes]* (7 December 1965) in Flannery, 903-1000.**

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States* Washington, D.C. (2005).

Tanner, N. (ed.). *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils.* Two volumes. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1990.

## **Studies - \*required reading**

Baker, Thomas, *Deacon*. Mystic, Connecticut, Twenty Third Publications, 2002.

**\* Barnett, James Monroe. *The Diaconate: A Full and Equal Order. A Comprehensive and Critical Study of the Origin, Development, and Decline of the Diaconate in the Context of the Church: Total Ministry and the Renewal of the Diaconate Today with Reflections for the Twenty-First Century*. Revised Edition. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1995.**

**\* Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate. *Foundations for the Renewal of the Diaconate*. David Bourke, Karl H. Kruger, William F. Schmitz, (trns.). Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1993.**

Butler, S. "Women's Ordination and the Development of Doctrine." *Thomist* 61 (1997): 501-24.

Campbell, D.D., Ph. D. Frederick F., "Understanding the Diaconate" *Emmanuel Magazine* Volume 111 No. 6 (November/December 2005)

Campbell, D.D., Ph.D. Frederick F. et.al. *Today's Deacon* Paulist Press New York/Mahwah, N.J. 2007

Cerrato, Ph.D. Deacon Dominic. *In the Person Of Christ the Servant: A Theology of the Diaconate Based on Personalist Thought of Pope John Paul II*. St. Ephraem Press, Bloomingdale, Ohio (2014)

Collins, J. N. "A Ministry for Tomorrow's Church." *Journal for Ecumenical Studies* 32 (1995): 159-78.

Collins, John N. *Deacons and the Church: Making connections between old and new*. Harrisburg, PA: Gracewing/Morehouse Publishing, 2002.

Coriden, John. "The Permanent Diaconate/ Meaning of Ministry." *Origins* 7: 6536.

Cummings, Owen F. *Deacons and the Church* Paulist Press New York/Mahwah, N.J.(2004).

Cummings, Owen F. *Saintly Deacons* Paulist Press New York/Mahwah, N.J.(2005).

Cummings, Owen F. et. al. *Theology of the Diaconate: The State of the Question* Paulist Press New York/Mahwah, N. J. (2005).

Derego, F. & J. Davidson. "Catholic Deacons: A Lesson in Role Conflict and Ambiguity," in *Religion in a Changing World. Comparative Studies in Sociology*, M. Cousineau (ed.), Westport, CT: Praeger, 1998, pp.89-98.

Ditewig, William T. *101 Questions and Answers on Deacons* New York/Mahwah, N.J. Paulist Press, 2004

**\* Ditewig, William T. *The Deacon at Mass: A Theological and Pastoral Guide* Paulist Press New York/Mahwah, N.J. 2007**

**\* Ditewig, William T. *The Emerging Diaconate: Servant Leaders in a Servant Church* Paulist Press New York/Mahwah, N. J. 2007**

Ditewig, William T. et.al. *Women Deacons* New York/Mahwah, N.J. Paulist Press, 2011.

Ditewig, W. "The Permanent Diaconate as Military Chaplain: Canonical Reflections." *Jurist* 51 (1991): 340-63.

Donovan, Ph.D. Rev. William T. *The Sacrament of Service: Understanding Diaconal Spirituality* Green Bay, Wisconsin, Alt Publishing Co. 2002.

Donovan, Ph.D. Rev. William T. *Service in Communion: Finding Mutuality in Ministry (Life Blood of Diaconal and other Ministry)* Green Bay, Wisconsin, Alt Publishing Co. 2001.

Echlin, Edward. "The Deacon's Golden Age." *Worship* 45 (1971): 37-46.

"The Origins of the Permanent Diaconate." *American Ecclesiastical Review* 163 (1970): 92-105.

Fichter, S.J., Joseph H. *Wives of Catholic Clergy*. Kansas City, Mo. Sheed and Ward, 1992.

Gaillardetz, R. "Shifting Meanings in the Lay-Clergy Distinction." *Irish Theological Quarterly* 64 (1999): 115-139.

Green, T. "Shepherding the Patrimony of the Poor: Diocesan and Parish Structures of Financial Administration." *Jurist* 56 (1997): 706-34.

Hall, Christine (ed.). *The Deacons Ministry*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 1992.

Harmeyer, Karen A. and MacLaughlin, Maria Thompson. *Partners in the Process: The Formation of Deacons' Wives*, St. Louis, Mo. Liguori Press, 2005.

Hemrick, E. "The Need to Define Roles," *Origins* 10 (August 1980): 151-4.

"Insights on the Diaconate: Celebrating 25 Years of Diaconate (Volume 1), NAPDD, Chicago, Illinois, 1992.

**\* International Theological Commission. *From the Diakonia of Christ to the Diakonia of the Apostles. International Theological Commission Historico- Theological Research Document Chicago/Mundelein: Hillenbrand Books, 2003.***

J. Shields. *A National Study of the Permanent Diaconate in the United States*. Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1981.

**\* Keating, Ph.D. Deacon James ed. *Deacon Reader* Paulist Press New York/Mahwah, N.J. 2006.**

Keating, Ph.D. Deacon James, *Deacon's Retreat* Paulist Press New York/Mahwah, N.J. 2010.

Keating, Ph.D. Deacon James, *The Heart of the Diaconate* Paulist Press New York/Mahwah, N.J. 2014.

Kennedy, K. "Shared Responsibility in Ecclesial Decision-Making," *Studia Canonica* 14 (1980): 5-23.

Kmiec, E. "The Profile and the Discernment of Candidates for the Permanent Diaconate." *Seminarium* 37 (1997): 763-78.

McCaslin, Patrick and Lawler, Michael G. *Sacrament of Service: A Vision of the Permanent Diaconate Today*. Paulist Press New York/Mahwah, N.J. 1986.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops's Committee on the Permanent Diaconate. *A National Study on the Permanent Diaconate of the Catholic Church in the United States 1994-1995*. Washington, D.C.: USCC 1996.

Osbourne, Kenan B. OFM *The Permanent Diaconate: Its History and Place in the Sacrament of Orders* Paulist Press New York/ Mahwah, N.J., 2007.

Plater, Ormonde. *Many Servants: An Introduction to Deacons* Cowley Publications, Boston, Mass. 1991.

Pokusa, James. *A Canonical Historical Study of the Diaconate in the Western Church*. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America, J.Co., 1979. [UMI Dissertation Services, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1999.J

"The Diaconate: A History of Law Following Practice." *Jurist* 45 (1985): 95135.

Power, D. "The Basis for Official Ministry in the Church." *Jurist* 41 (1981): 31442.

Puglisi, James. *The Process for Admission to Ordained Ministry. A Comparative Study. Epistemological Principles and Roman Catholic Rites*. M. Driscoll & M. Misrashi (trns.). Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1996.

Puhala, Bob and Turner, Paul. *Guide for Deacons: The Liturgical Ministry Series*. Chicago, Illinois Liturgical Training Publications 2011.

Rahner, Karl, *Servants of the Lord*. New York, Herder & Herder, 1968.

Rahner, K. "The Theology of the Restoration of the Diaconate." In *Foundations for the Renewal of the Diaconate, 139-81*.

"On the Diaconate." In *Foundations for the Renewal of the Diaconate, 193-212*.

"The Teaching of the Second Vatican Council on the Diaconate." In *Foundations for the Renewal of the Diaconate, 182-192*.

Rice, N. "Will the Diaconate Become Parochialized?" *Origins* 26 (1997): 745, 7479.

Reese, J. "Patterns of Ministry in the New Testament as Interpreting the Role of the Permanent Diaconate." *American Ecclesiastical Review* 166 (1972): 174-84.

Reynolds, R. "An Early Medieval Tract on the Diaconate." In *Clerical Orders in the Early Middle Ages. Duties and Ordination*. [Variorum collected studies series cs670]. Brookfield: Ashgate, 1999, VII: 97-100.

Rohr, Richard (with Thomas Welch). *Called, Formed, Sent*. Rockford Center, Illinois, NADD Publications, 2002.

"Clerics in the Early Middle Ages: Hierarchies and Functions." In *Clerics in the Early Middle Ages. Hierarchy and Image*. [Variorum collected studies series cs669]. Brookfield: Ashgate, 1999; I: 1-31.

Scheffczyk, L. "Laypersons, deacons, and priests: A difference of ministries," *Communio* 23 (1996): 639-55.

Sherman, Lynn C., *The Deacon in the Church*. New York, Alba House (Society of Saint Paul), 1991.

Shrugue, T. *Service Ministry of the Deacon*. Washington, D.C.: NCCB/USCC, 1988.

Sykes, S. "Power and Authority in Ecumenical Theology." In *Ecumenism*.

*Present Realities and Future Prospects. Papers Read at the Tantur Ecumenical Center, Jerusalem, 1997* L. Cunningham (ed.). Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press 1997, 169-83.

**\* Velott, LaRue H. *The Order of Deacon Past and Present: A study text for a survey Course on the History of the Order of Deacon*, National Association of Deacon Director: Columbus, Ohio, 2008.**

Woestman, W. *The Sacrament of Orders and the Clerical State. A Commentary on the Code of Canon Law*. Ottawa: St. Paul University, 1999.

Wood, Susan K. *Sacramental Orders*. [Lex Orandi Series, John D. Laurance, SJ, (ed.)] Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2000.) (Wright, J. "The Emergence of the Diaconate." *Uturgy*2 (1982): 17-23,67-71.

Zagano, Phyllis. *Holy Saturday: An argument for the restoration of the female diaconate in the Catholic Church*. New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 2000.