

Diocese of San Diego

POLICY ON APPROPRIATE ATTIRE, VESTURE & TITLE

I. ATTIRE

- A. The ordinary attire for permanent deacons is that of a layman.
- B. Permanent deacons are authorized to wear Roman collar only when—identification as Catholic clergy is necessary, e.g., hospital, nursing homes, prison or funeral ministry. Remembering that the norm for deacons’ attire is that of a layman, there may be other occasions when the deacon may wear roman collars if it benefits the faithful to identify him as Catholic clergy.

II. VESTURE

- A. The vestment proper to the deacon is the dalmatic, worn over the alb and stole. The dalmatic may, however, be omitted out of necessity or on account of a lesser degree of solemnity (*GIRM #338*). In mutual collaboration, the pastor and deacon will decide when a dalmatic should be used at Mass.
- B. Deacons presiding in liturgical celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, funerals and communion services would wear an alb and stole. Alb and stole are not to be used at a venue for blessings of couples in an irregular situation (cf. *Fiducia Supplicans* 39).
- C. When deacons do not exercise a ministerial role in a liturgical celebration, they should not vest. If they are participating officially as representing the body of Deacons in any Diocesan liturgies, they are encouraged to vest in alb and stole.

III. TITLE

- A. The title “Deacon” is to be used and may either precede or follow the proper name.
- B. The title “Reverend” signifies a priest and “Reverend Mr.” signifies a transitional deacon. Neither title may be used by permanent deacons.