

Roles and Duties of those in Holy Orders

Duties of a Deacon

The role of the deacon is characterised by care and the welfare of Christ's people. OCAC does not distinguish between deacons who are on a progression to priesthood and those who wish to be perpetual deacons. There is no title of 'Perpetual Deacon' in OCAC, although it is perfectly noble to remain as deacon if desired.

The deacon has all the roles and responsibilities of the Minor Orders plus:

1. Praying for all who are sick or in need within the area, parish or sphere of mission.
2. Praying for the priest and bishop.
3. Reading the Gospel at Mass
4. Distributing communion
5. A Deacon may hold a service of communion using pre-sanctified hosts
6. Assisting the priest
7. Deputising for the priest
8. Weddings
9. Funerals
10. Blessings of Relationships
11. Renewal of Vows.
12. Baptisms when the priest is not present.
13. Providing guidance to those in Minor Orders.

Vestments:

Clerical collar

Clergy shirts may be any colour except purple

Stole to be worn on one side.

Title:

The deacon uses the title reverend and may be referred to as Deacon Name or Revd.

Deacon Name in speech. Some deacons continue to use brother or sister from Religious Orders.

Duties of a Priest

The role of the priest is characterised as a servant acting on behalf of the people.

The priest is the principal role of ministry in OCAC, and

The priest has all the roles and responsibilities of the Minor Orders, and the Deacon plus:

1. Celebrating Mass
2. Hearing confessions and giving absolution
3. Blessing of Holy Water
4. Holding services of healing - Unction.
5. Blessing of Holy Oils (only for immediate use)
6. House blessings
7. Sacramental Ceremonies, i.e. Requiem Mass, Nuptial Mass etc.
8. Services of remembrance.
9. Baptisms
10. Presentation of awards i.e. Seminary Certificates etc.
11. Blessing an oratory.

The priest may be asked to deputise for the bishop, who will issue faculty (licence) for each individual occasion. In these roles the priest is acting on behalf of the bishop and in all these awaiting the bishop is to be preferred if at all possible:

Ordaining to the Minor Orders (but not sub-deacons).

Confirming new members.

Presentation of meritorious awards.

Vestments:

White alb and cincture, Stole on both sides, but crossed in the centre. Large wooden or small metallic pectoral cross. Black zucchetto. Any colour clergy shirt may be worn except purple.

Title:

The priest uses the title Reverend and in addition may use Father if male, or Amma if female. Mother may also be used by female priests if preferred, but not both. i.e. Revd. Fr. Jones, or Fr. Jones. Revd Amma Smith, or Amma Smith. Informally: Father Bill, or Amma Shirley. Revd. Mtr. Shirley or Mother Shirley can be used, but needs to be consistent; that is; don't use one form one day and the other the next.

The priest may have a crest or coat of arms to represent their priesthood.

Duties of a Bishop

The role of Bishop is characterised as a servant of the servants. The bishop carries the full expression of the priesthood and acts as shepherd of the flock, providing leadership and direction, compassion, purpose and structure to all entrusted to them. The bishop carries the Apostolic Succession. All clergy are responsible to their bishop, and the bishop is in turn responsible to the overall OCAC through the Presiding Bishop and the collective College of Bishops.

The Bishop has all the roles of the church. As a bishop is still a deacon and a priest, all those roles and duties apply.

1. Ordaining to the sub-diaconate.

2. Ordaining to the diaconate.
3. Ordaining to the priesthood.
4. Assisting with other bishops to consecrate new bishops.
5. Consecrating an oratory.
6. Consecrating church premises.
7. Leading the portion of the church (diocese/mission etc) entrusted to them.
8. Providing care guidance and advice to the priests and clergy of their diocese/mission.
9. Ensuring best practice, encouraging high clerical standards and discipline.

Vestments:

Priestly garb, but the stole is worn straight i.e. uncrossed.

The bishop may wear purple clergy shirts.

Mitre, purple zucchetto, black or purple cassock. Cope. Crozier.

The bishop also needs a ring and pectoral cross.

Title:

The bishop uses the title Right Reverend (Rt. Revd). The bishop must have a crest (coat of arms) or sigillum to represent their episcopacy.

Other Roles.

Senior Priests may be appointed to Vicar General, that is, bishop's assistant; where the senior priest acts on behalf of the bishop, with the bishops devolved authority, at the request of the bishop. Vicar General is not limited to any geographical area, and so tends to be the Presiding Bishops assistant, or Provincial Bishops assistant.

The Vicar General has in addition to the priestly duties, open faculty to Ordain to the Minor Orders including sub-deacons and Confirming new members.

Episcopal Vicar

This is the same role as Vicar General, but is within the diocese only; that is assisting the diocesan bishop.

Vestments for Vicar General/Episcopal Vicar

As for priest except Black Cassock with purple piping. Black Zucchetto with purple piping.

Dean.

The Dean is the head of a collegiate body, such as the seminary.