

THE DEACON MANUAL

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

While all permanent deacons share in the same universal order of deacons within the Roman Catholic Church, there are customs and practices which are particular to the deacons within each local church (i.e., diocese or archdiocese). Policies such as the age of retirement, the wearing of clerical attire, and the requirements for continuing education can vary. Other policies and procedures may be common to all deacons in the United States, but the details and implementation may vary from diocese to diocese.

Therefore, the purpose of *The Deacon Manual* is to assist the ordained permanent deacon in exercising his diaconal responsibilities to the People of God within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. *The Deacon Manual* includes all pertinent policies and directives regarding deacons in the Archdiocese as well as customary practices and expectations. In so doing it is hoped that this *Manual* will provide a sound foundation on which to practice the deacon's ministry and offer useful guidance on best professional practices here in the Archdiocese.

It should be understood that what is contained in this *Manual* is normative and shall be observed by all in regard to whatever pertains to the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Only the Archbishop or his delegate may dispense from these norms in those cases permitted by law.

This is now the Fifth Edition of *The Deacon Manual* which reflects the evolving history of the Permanent Diaconate within the Archdiocese. Numerous changes in policies and structures have been instituted since the previous (2016) edition and are reflected in this Fifth Edition. While we have done our best to provide a correct and accurate reference work, perfection has undoubtedly eluded us. Therefore, please inform the Director of the Office of Deacons of any mistakes, errors, or omissions that you may discover.