

# THE DEACON MANUAL

---

## CHAPTER 1.

### INTRODUCTION

The primary goal of this Manual is to assist each permanent deacon to provide the best possible diaconal ministry to the People of God in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.<sup>1</sup> If this goal is to be achieved, the deacon must be well informed and adequately trained, both spiritually and academically. Each deacon should also be able to expect and receive support and encouragement from his clerical superiors and from his brother priests and deacons as he performs the ministerial duties for which he was ordained.

In the years ahead, the role of the permanent deacon in the Archdiocese is expected to change dramatically, and each deacon must be willing, within his own limitations, to meet new challenges as they arise. The guidelines in this Manual have been formulated with the need for future development kept continually in mind.

This Manual is intended to assist our Archbishop, the Vicars Forane (Deans), the Director of Deacons,<sup>2</sup> all other Archdiocesan offices and organizations concerned in any way with diaconal ministry, and the entire Community of Permanent Deacons, in making the best use possible of the charisms and talents of the deacons ministering in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

#### Notes for Chapter 1

1. In this Manual the term “People of God” is used in the same sense as it was used in Chapter II of the **Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium***, 21 November 1964: The term embraces all baptized Christian persons, both within and without the Roman Catholic Church (nn, 9 – 17, *Lumen Gentium*). Within the Roman Catholic Church, the term “People of God” as used herein connotes sacred ministers (ordained clerics), professed religious, and the laity.
2. Historically in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, the official responsible for the permanent diaconate was a priest known officially as the Vicar of Deacons. In 1993 Archbishop Sheehan instituted the position of Director of Deacons and appointed Deacon Norbert Sánchez to fill that position; he was succeeded in 1995 by Deacon Donato (Don) Lucero. See Chapter III of this Manual for a discussion of this position.

# THE DEACON MANUAL

---